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Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. *May* 1898.

CONFIDENTIAL.

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PART 16.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF MOROCCO.

28

July to December 1897.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Morocco.

PART 16.

No. 1.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 10.)

(No. 20.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, July* 9, 1897.

IT having come to my knowledge indirectly, with reference to the Globe Venture Syndicate, that Major Spilsbury intended to visit the Sus either by sea or by land viâ Mogador, I gave instructions to Mr. Johnson, British Vice-Consul at Mogador, to remind him of the promise he had made not to attempt a journey to the Sus without permission, and at the same time to give him a warning of the risks he would incur.

Major Spilsbury, in a letter which I have just received, dated Mogador, 3rd July, states that he only promised not to enter Sus viâ the Atlas Mountains, and that being entitled by Treaty to travel throughout Morocco, he had determined to proceed to Sus, claiming from Her Majesty's Government the same protection which would be accorded to him elsewhere in this country.

In my reply I am pointing out that it is very undesirable under the circumstances that he should undertake this journey without permission and unaccompanied by an escort.

No. 2.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 10.)

(No. 21.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, July* 10, 1897.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 20 of yesterday, I have ascertained that Major Spilsbury is now at Las Palmas, Grand Canary, and it would appear that he probably has the intention of going to Sus by sea.

No. 3.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 10.)

(No. 22.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, July* 10, 1897

I HAVE to report the arrival on the 8th July of a United States' cruiser for the purpose of supporting the United States' Consul-General in his demand for the punishment of certain Moors who assaulted and attempted to rob some men in the employ of a citizen of the United States.

No. 4.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 12.)

(No. 83.)

My Lord, *Tangier, July* 2, 1897.

WITH reference to Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 44 of the 5th April last, reporting an unsuccessful attack upon the British falucho "Virgen de los Angeles" by Riffians near Alhucenas, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a letter and inclosures received from the Governor of Gibraltar, putting forward a claim which the owner, master, and crew of the vessel desire to make against the Moorish Government in consequence of that attack.

The total sum claimed amounts to 34,684·30 pesetas, or about 1,083*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*, composed as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Actual damage suffered by the vessel	15	6	0
Demurrage	2	4	0
Making total of actual loss	17	10	0
Personal damages to owner	350	0	0
To master and crew	650	0	0
Making together	1,000	0	0
Legal expenses	66	7	6

The facts of the case, according to the account given by the master and crew, are as follows.

The "Virgen de los Angeles" cleared for Alhucenas on the 23rd March with a cargo of petroleum and salt, but, owing to contrary winds, did not start till the 2nd April.

On the following morning the wind dropped, and the vessel was becalmed near Cebadilla from 5 A.M. till 2 P.M., when, a gentle breeze springing up, she was able to proceed slowly on her way. At 4·15 P.M., when about 2 miles east of Morro Nuevo, the vessel, being again becalmed, was approached by two boats filled with Riffians, who ordered them to lower sail, and fired on them. The master and crew took shelter behind the bulwarks, and a breeze opportunely springing up, they were able to escape, though pursued for some way by the Riffians, who kept up a hot fire upon them as long as they were within range.

The attack was witnessed by some of the Spanish officials at Alhucenas, and an inquiry was held into the matter by the naval authorities at that place.

Two Riffians, who visited Alhucenas the following day, and were recognized as having taken part in the attack, were arrested by the Spanish authorities.

I have inquired of the Spanish Minister whether he was in possession of a copy of the proceedings of the inquiry held by the naval authorities at Alhucenas and could communicate their substance to me; but he replied that they had not been forwarded to him, though certified copies would doubtless be furnished if we required them.

I have the honour to transmit herewith translation of a letter I have addressed to the Vizier acquainting him with the facts of the case, and informing him that I would communicate with him again on the subject when I have received your Lordship's instructions.

As the amounts claimed for general damages by the owner, master, and crew appear to me excessive, I have not made any mention in my letter of the claim for damages.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 4.

Governor Sir R. Biddulph to Mr. White.

Sir, *Gibraltar, June* 26, 1897.

WITH reference to previous correspondence in connection with the attack by Riff Moors on the "Virgen de los Angeles" on the 3rd April last, I have the honour

to forward herewith the statement of claims preferred by the owner and crew, of which notice was given in the letter of the solicitor for the claimants, a copy of which was forwarded by me to his Excellency Sir Arthur Nicolson on the 13th ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT BIDDULPH, *General.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 4.

Mr. Parodi to Colonial Secretary, Gibraltar.

Sir, *Gibraltar, June* 23, 1897.

WITH reference to the piratical attack on the British falucho "Virgen de los Angeles" on the 3rd day of April last by Riffian pirates, I have the honour to confirm Mr. Ballon's letter of the 12th ultimo written on my behalf, and to inclose herewith detailed Statements of the respective claims of her owner, master, and crew, together with the evidence in support of same, which I regret have not been put forward at an earlier date, owing to my absence from Gibraltar.

Should you require to be furnished with any further documents in support or explanation of the case, my clients will be prepared to furnish same should it be in their power to do so.

I may state that the owner, Mr. Joseph Diaz, on the 9th ultimo addressed a letter to the Governor of Alhucenas, praying to be furnished with a certified copy of the inquiry instituted by the authorities there, in reply to which he has received the letter herewith inclosed and marked P. A.

The full facts of the case appear clearly from the papers and the evidence forwarded herewith, and there seems nothing for me to add on behalf of my clients except to express their hope that Her Britannic Majesty's Government, on being satisfied of the justice of their claims in respect of this second piratical outrage on the said falucho, in which they were greatly in danger of losing their lives, will press the same with all stringency and rigour against the Government of His Shereefian Majesty, so that the latter may awake to the importance of punishing the assailants severely, and so secure to the hardworking seamen of sailing-vessels a safe passage across.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HORACE P. PARODI,
Solicitor for the Owner, Master, and Crew of the British falucho "Virgen de los Angeles."

Inclosure 3 in No. 4.

Señor Artal to Mr. Diaz.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Alhucenas, May* 29, 1897.

I RECEIVED your courteous letter of the 9th instant, and, having made myself acquainted with its contents, I beg to inform you that it is not in my power to issue the certificate requested by you relative to the attack by Moors of this frontier district upon your vessel the "Virgen de los Angeles" on the 3rd April last, since the case is being dealt with by the naval authorities concerned, and it is only the chief of that Department, his Excellency the Commander-in-chief of the Cadiz Naval Station, who can order, on application being made to that effect, the issue of a certified copy of the proceedings of the inquiry held in this fortress, and which have already been forwarded to that superior authority.

This is all the information I can give you, and regretting my inability to meet your wishes on this occasion, I remain, &c.

(Signed) PABLO ARTAL.

Inclosure 4 in No. 4.

Mr. White to Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa.

(After compliments.) *Tangier, July* 2, 1897 (1 *Safar,* 1315).

I REGRET to have to inform your Excellency that the Riffians of the tribe of Bocaya, encouraged without doubt by the impunity which has followed their previous piracies, have attacked another British falucho on its way to Alhucenas from Gibraltar with a cargo of petroleum and salt.

It appears that the vessel was becalmed about 2 miles off the headland called Morro Nuevo, near Alhucenas, when two boats filled with armed men of the Bocaya tribe approached and ordered the crew to lower sail, firing at the same time at them with their rifles. Happily a breeze sprung up at that moment and the falucho was able to escape, but the Riffians followed them for some distance, keeping up a hot rifle fire on them. The crew of the falucho saved themselves by taking refuge behind the bulwarks of the vessel, but the sails, rigging, and hull of the falucho were damaged by the bullets. The attack was witnessed by the people of Alhucenas, including some of the Spanish officials.

I think it right to acquaint your Excellency with the facts of the case in order that you may bring them to the knowledge of the Sultan. In the meantime, I am forwarding a report on the matter to Her Majesty's Government, and will address your Excellency a further communication when I receive their instructions.

Peace.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 5.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Vice-Consul Ferguson.

(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, July* 12, 1897.

MAJOR SPILSBURY, agent of the Globe Venture Syndicate, is, we are informed, at Las Palmas, from whence it is his intention to proceed to the Sus district of Morocco.

You should warn him that unless he first obtains the permission of the Moorish Government and the consent of Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires he must not expect any support or assistance. Should he persist, he does so at his own risk.

No. 6.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(No. 82.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, July* 12, 1897.

HER Majesty's Vice-Consul at Las Palmas has been instructed by telegraph to warn Major Spilsbury that unless he first obtains the consent of the Moorish Government and your concurrence he must not proceed to Sus.

No. 7.

Messrs. J. M. Lennard and Sons to Foreign Office.—(Received July 15.)

Sir, *Middlesbro'-on-Tees, July* 14, 1897.

PROPOSALS have been made to us by Sheiks, residing on the north-west coast of Africa, between Cape Juby and Cape Bojador, with a view to opening up a direct trade by sea to that district.

They say they have previously traded only by caravan with Morocco and Senegal, and also that they are absolutely independent of any other Power whatsoever.

We should be very much obliged if you can inform us whether the district is claimed by the Spaniards, or any other Power, as being within their sphere of influence, and whether such a claim has ever been recognized by Her Majesty's Government.

If so, would any opposition be offered to, or any restrictions imposed on, an English Company, carrying on a legitimate trade in that district, in which up to the present no European posts of any kind have ever been established?

Any other information you may be able to give us with reference to this district would be greatly esteemed.

Thanking you in anticipation for the favour of a reply, we are, &c.

John M. Lennard and Sons (Limited),

(Signed) B. C. FRY, *Director.*

No. 8.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 86.)

My Lord, *Tangier, July* 9, 1897.

IN continuation of my telegram No. 20 of this date regarding the intention of Major Spilsbury, agent of the Globe Venture Syndicate, to visit the Sûs, I have the honour to report that, having heard that Major Spilsbury had not met with any success in his visit to the Court, and that it was possible he might, nevertheless, endeavour to enter the Sûs viâ Mogador, I requested the Vice-Consul at that place to remind him of his promise not to penetrate into the Sûs without the permission of the Moorish Government, and to warn him of the risks he would incur in so doing, I beg to transmit herewith copy of my letter to the Vice-Consul.

This afternoon I received letters from Mr. Vice-Consul Johnston and Major Spilsbury, of which copies are herewith inclosed. Mr. Johnston reports that Major Spilsbury has entered into an agreement with some persons from Asakka, and that he intends to visit the Sûs, perhaps by sea. He apparently has no knowledge of the nature of this agreement, the signatures to which were attested by him; but he has asked for a translation of it for communication to this Legation.

In his letter Major Spilsbury denies that he is under any engagement not to visit the Sûs without the Sultan's permission, and states that he merely promised not to cross the Atlas into that province. He proceeds to say that, under our Treaty with Morocco, British subjects have the right to travel and reside in any part of the Sultan's dominions, subject only to police regulations, and that he had decided to avail himself of that right and go to the Sûs. Major Spilsbury adds that he is aware of the risks he runs, but claims from Her Majesty's Government and Representatives the same amount of protection while in Sûs that he would be entitled to in any other part of Morocco.

With regard to the terms of the promise made by Major Spilsbury, it is evident, from the last paragraph of his despatch to your Lordship No. 36 of the 20th March, that Sir A. Nicolson understood him to say that he would not endeavour to penetrate into the Sûs district without the permission of the Sultan. At a subsequent interview Sir Arthur Nicolson communicated to Major Spilsbury the Vizier's letter of the 20th February, and informed him that he proposed to reply that the agent had engaged not to enter the Sûs district without permission. With this Major Spilsbury concurred, and Sir A. Nicolson addressed a letter in that sense to the Vizier. It is unfortunate that, in the face of this engagement, communicated by the Legation to the Vizier, Major Spilsbury should now visit the Sûs district after having failed to obtain the Sultan's permission. The Moorish Government cannot fail to regard his journey with the greatest suspicion, and will probably take steps to have him arrested and brought back to Mogador.

I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of my reply to Major Spilsbury, which, however, I fear can hardly reach Mogador till after he has started on his journey. In this letter I inform him that Her Majesty's Minister certainly understood him to engage not to enter the Sûs without permission, and I again urge him not to do so, pointing out that, in the present disturbed state of that province, it would be very unwise for any European to undertake such a journey, and warning him that if he persists in his intention he will go entirely on his own responsibility and at his own risk.

From what I have heard, it appears not improbable that Major Spilsbury may intend to visit the Sûs coast by sea from the Canaries, after consulting with his Directors from that place by telegraph. It is possible, therefore, that they may instruct him not to undertake the journey at present.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

P.S.—Since closing this despatch I have seen a telegram from Major Spilsbury to a local banker, dated to-day, from Las Palmas, Grand Canary, so it is probable he intends to sail thence to the Sûs coast and land in neighbourhood of Wad Nun.

H. E. W.

Inclosure 1 in No. 8.

Mr. White to Vice-Consul Johnston.

(Private.)

Dear Mr. Johnston, *Tangier, May* 25, 1897.

I HEAR it is probable that Major Spilsbury, of the Globe Venture Syndicate, will shortly visit Mogador, and it is stated that he will endeavour to proceed thence into Sûs, even without the permission of the Moorish Government. I do not myself credit this report, as Major Spilsbury gave a distinct promise to Sir Arthur Nicolson and also to the authorities at home, that he would not visit the Sûs without the Sultan's permission. Should, however, Major Spilsbury arrive at Mogador and should you have reason to believe that it is really his intention to proceed to the Sûs without permission, I should be glad if you would convey to him a serious warning against taking such a step, reminding him of his promise to Sir Arthur Nicolson, and pointing out to him that if he does enter the Sûs without the distinct permission of the Sultan, he does so entirely at his own risk and peril, and will have only himself to blame should any untoward accident unfortunately befall him. You might remind him of what happened to Mr. Curtis, when he visited Sûs without permission, and warn him that the Sultan would probably cause him to be arrested and brought back in the same way.

I am, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 8.

Major Spilsbury to Mr. White.

Sir, [*Undated.*]

MR. JOHNSTON, Vice-Consul for this town, has communicated to me the contents of a letter which you recently wrote to him about me.

I wish to draw your attention to the inaccuracy of a statement which it contains. My promise to Sir Arthur Nicolson and to the Foreign Office was "not to cross the Atlas into the Sûs" unless I obtained from the Moorish Government the permission to do so. This promise was given so as not to cause embarrassment to our Government by an abortive attempt to overcome the opposition which I should be certain to meet with if I attempted to cross the mountains in defiance of the Sultan's wishes.

But it does not imply that I accept the Shereefian views, under which no Christian may travel in Sûs, on the contrary, I hold that, under the Treaty, British subjects have the right to travel and reside in any part of the Sultan's dominions, subject only to police regulations, and that if this restriction were sufficient to allow the Moorish Government to prevent free access to any portion of the Empire, it would nullify the clause in which it appears, and abrogate the whole Treaty; there would be nothing to prevent the Sultan applying it to any other portion of Morocco.

I have, therefore, decided to go to Sûs availing myself of my undoubted right to do so. I am aware of the risks I run, which have been duly pointed out by Mr. Johnston, but I claim from Her Majesty's Government and Representatives the same amount of protection, while in the Sûs, as I should be entitled to in any other part of the Moorish Empire, neither more nor less.

When in Marakesh I informed the Foreign Minister of my intention, although without stating what steps I should take to put my project into execution.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. GYBBON SPILSBURY.

No. 8*.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 20.)

(No. 26.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, July* 20, 1897.

THE United States' cruiser "Raleigh," whose arrival I reported in my telegram No. 25 of the 17th instant, left here yesterday evening for the purpose of visiting all the ports on the western coast of Morocco. The United States' Consul-General is on board the "Raleigh."

Inclosure 3 in No. 8.

Vice-Consul Johnston to Mr. White.

Dear Mr. White, *Mogador, July* 3, 1897.

MAJOR SPILSBURY has been here for about a fortnight, and, hearing some rumour of his intention of going to Sûs, I gave him your message referring to his promise not to go there without the Sultan's sanction. He immediately begged me to tell you that he promised Sir Arthur "not to cross the Atlas," but that he did not conceal his intention of perhaps going to Sûs by another route.

I have, of course, pointed out to him the risks he would run by so doing, and the political trouble which might be caused by any attempt to disturb the *status quo*, besides relating to him the disastrous results of every enterprise of this nature which have come to my own knowledge within the last twenty years.

While attending to my remarks with the most perfect courtesy, Major Spilsbury evidently retains his own opinion as to the feasibility of his projects, and I should not be surprised to hear of himself or some of his friends landing on the coast.

He has an agreement with certain persons in or near Asakka, which was brought to me for certification of signatures. On referring to the correspondence about the Kirby Syndicate in 1893 (see my No. 76 of the 18th October, 1893, and Legation instructions No. 44 of the 16th November, 1893) I find that my attesting signatures on a similar document was approved, or at any rate not disapproved, by Lord Rosebery, so, regarding this as a merely notarial act, I consented to do it.

I have asked Major Spilsbury for the translation of the document, for your information and that of the Foreign Office. On obtaining this I will send it through Dar-al-Baida.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) R. L. N. JOHNSTON.

Inclosure 4 in No. 8.

Mr. White to Major Spilsbury.

Sir, *Tangier, July* 9, 1897.

I HAVE just received your letter of the 3rd instant informing me that your promise to Sir Arthur Nicolson and the Foreign Office was merely "not to cross the Atlas into the Sûs" without the permission of the Moorish Government, and that, as you consider that under the Treaty British subjects have a right to travel in any part of the Sultan's dominions, you have decided to go to Sûs. You add that you are aware of the risks you run, but that you claim from Her Majesty's Government and Representatives the same amount of protection while in Sûs that you would be entitled to in any other part of Morocco.

With reference to your promise to Sir Arthur Nicolson, I can only state that he certainly understood you to say you would not visit the Sûs without the consent of the Moorish Government. However, be that as it may, I would point out that under the circumstances, and having failed to obtain the consent of the Sultan, it is very undesirable that you should undertake the journey, which cannot fail to be regarded with suspicion.

I am aware that a few travellers have occasionally succeeded in visiting the Sûs without mishap, but, on the other hand, others have not been so fortunate. Moreover, the present moment is not a favourable one for any traveller to attempt to enter that district, as it is in a disturbed condition. It is true that it is stipulated in the Treaty between Great Britain and Morocco that British subjects may travel in the Sultan's dominions subject to police precautions, but it cannot be reasonably maintained that British subjects are entitled to travel without restriction in districts known to be unsafe. It is, moreover, an established custom that foreigners travelling in Morocco must first obtain from the Moorish authorities an escort for their protection.

Under all these circumstances, I feel it to be my duty to urge you very strongly to abandon your project of entering the Sûs without the consent of the Moorish Government, and I must warn you that should you persist in doing so, it must be entirely on your own responsibility and at your own risk.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 9.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(No. 77.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 21, 1897.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 83 of the 2nd instant in regard to an attack which was made by certain Riffians upon the British falucho "Virgen de los Angeles" near Alhucenas on the 3rd April last.

As the attack in question proved unsuccessful, I concur in your opinion that the amounts claimed for general damages by the owner, master, and crew of the vessel appear to be excessive; it is, moreover, likely that, if they were conceded, the owners of vessels sailing from Gibraltar would be encouraged to present claims founded on fictitious piracy cases. It appears to me that, in the present instance, the exigencies of the case will be met by the presentation of a claim on behalf of the master and crew of the vessel for reimbursement to them of any legal expenses which they may have incurred, as well as of the amount of their actual losses and of such other damages as they may have sustained on the occasion.

I have, accordingly, to request that you will present such a claim on behalf of the master and crew as, in your opinion, seems just and equitable; and you will address a strongly-worded note to the Vizier, pointing out to the Moorish Government the frequent recurrence of these piratical acts, calling their attention to the fact that they are perpetrated by the Boroya tribe alone, and stating that it is the obvious duty of the Moorish Government to maintain order and peace on their line of coast, and to exercise such control over the unruly tribesmen in future as shall prevent the recurrence of the acts complained of. You should also remind the Vizier of his promise to Her Majesty's Minister that he would urge the Sultan to send a punitive expedition into the offending district.

In conclusion, I have to request you to obtain, through the Spanish Representative at Tangier, copies of the proceedings of the inquiry into the matter in question which was held before the Spanish naval authorities at Alhucenas.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 10.

Messrs. J. M. Lennard and Sons to Foreign Office.—(Received July 22.)

Sir, *Middlesbro'-on-Tees, July* 21, 1897.

WE wrote you on the 14th instant making some inquiries with regard to certain territories on the north-west African Coast. Having had no acknowledgment of the receipt of the letter, we fear it may have miscarried. We should, therefore, be much obliged if you will kindly advise us if you ever received the same, and, if so, whether we may shortly expect the favour of a reply.

With apologies for again troubling you on this subject, we are, &c.,
John M. Lennard and Sons (Limited),
(Signed) B. C. FRY, *Director.*

No. 11.

Messrs. Dehn and Heine to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 22.)

My Lord, 47, *Newton Street, Manchester, July* 21, 1897.

WE beg reference to our letter of the 12th March, and to your Lordship's reply of the 20th March, in which it is stated that Her Majesty's Representative at Tangier would be instructed to report what progress is being made with regard to our claims against the Moorish Government on account of the disturbances in the Mzab districts.

In our letter of the 8th August, 1896, we stated the amount due to us by Mohamed-el-Hartzi-el-Slani, of Casablanca, to be 1,287*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.*, which, plus interest to the 30th June, 1897, is now 1,345*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.*

We learn to-day from Rabat that this man is now absolutely unable to pay his debts and that he has been ruined by the disturbances in the Mzab.

We would, therefore, venture to urge upon your Lordship the great importance of getting our claim against him paid by the Moorish Government without any further delay, in such a manner that the money due to us is handed over to Her Majesty's Representative in Tangier for transmission to us.

We have also a claim, on account of same disturbances, against Mohamed Tassi, of Casablanca, and gave your Lordship the amount of same in our letter of the 8th August, 1896, as 115*l.* 9*s.*, which, plus interest to the 30th June, 1897, is now 120*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.*

A third claim, and which is also mentioned in our letter of the 8th August, 1896, is against Dres Kotoni, of Casablanca, and amounted to 51*l.* 18*s.* 11*d.*, this amount, plus interest to the 30th June, 1897, is 54*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.*

None of these amounts have been received, and, with regard to Dres Kotoni and Mohamed Tassi, we would likewise venture to urge upon your Lordship to obtain a speedy settlement on the part of the Moorish Government.

We understand that the French Minister has lately informed interested parties, who have applied to him, that the inquiries are not yet completed, but that there is every prospect of an early and satisfactory settlement, in fact, he is reported to have said that he felt sure all European claims would be paid.

We should be greatly obliged to your Lordship if an early reply could be given us as to the actual position of affairs, and we venture to repeat our urgent request that no time should be lost by Her Majesty's Representative at Tangier to obtain payment of the amounts named for transmission to us.

We are, &c.
(Signed) B. A. DEHN AND HEINE.

No. 12.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 27.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, July* 22, 1897.

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram No. 9 of to-day's date, I am of opinion that the Treaty to which reference is made in Kaïd Maclean's letter from Major Spilsbury is the Agreement to which I referred in my despatch, No. 86 of the 9th instant, as having been attested by the Vice-Consul at Mogador. Mr. Vice-Consul Johnston has since written to me referring to this document as "An Agreement with some Wad-Nun men to trade with them;" but, as he has not yet forwarded me a copy of this Agreement, I presume Major Spilsbury did not provide him with one as requested.

Major Spilsbury having an agent at Mogador, I am instructing Mr. Vice-Consul Johnston to obtain further particulars from him if possible.

No. 13.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(No. 9.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, July* 22, 1897.

IN a letter, dated Las Palmas, 11th July, and addressed to Kaid Maclean, Major Spilsbury states that he signed, in the British Vice-Consulate at Mogador, a Treaty he had made with two important Chiefs of Wad Nun. I request that you will obtain from Vice-Consul Johnston a report on this subject.

No. 14.

Foreign Office to Messrs. J. M. Lennard and Sons.

Gentlemen, *Foreign Office, July* 23, 1897.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 14th and 21st instant, stating that your firm had received proposals from

certain Sheiks, who say that they are independent, to open up a direct trade by sea with the district on the north-west coast of Africa, between Cape Juby and Cape Bojador, and requesting to be informed whether any opposition would be offered to, or any restrictions imposed on, the operations of an English Company in the district in question, in consequence of its being claimed by any foreign Power as being within their sphere of influence.

In reply, I am to inform you that some years ago a station was established at Cape Juby by a British Company styling itself the North-West Africa Company, which had entered into Agreements for trade with the tribes in the neighbourhood. In 1895 the Sultan of Morocco acquired, by purchase, the property and rights possessed by the Company within this district. On the occason of this transfer to the Sultan of the port of Cape Juby and of the adjoining territory, it was arranged between Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier and the Moorish Government, in March 1895, that the port should remain open for buying and selling, and that the customs duties for exports and imports should be the same as at other ports on the Moorish coast. The Moorish Government agreed to grant suitable lots of land on twenty years' lease to foreign merchants, on the application of their respective Legations, upon which such merchants might construct, at their own expense, whatever dwellings and warehouses they might find necessary; at the end of the twenty years' lease, the said allotments, with the buildings thereon, to become the property of the Moorish Government. The Moorish Government, however, declared that they would not be bound to provide houses or warehouses, nor to supply boats to land or ship cargo until such time as it might please the Sultan to give orders to that effect.

Such being the terms of the commercial portion of the Agreement come to with the Moorish Government in the year 1895, I am to state that Her Majesty's Government cannot countenance or sanction any trading operations by British subjects in the district in question, unless they should be in conformity with those conditions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 15.

Messrs. J. M. Lennard and Sons to Foreign Office.—(Received July 25.)

Sir, *Middlesbro-on-Tees, July 24, 1897.*

WE are duly in receipt of your favour of the 23rd instant, and are extremely obliged for the information contained therein. At the same time, we beg to point out that the district we propose to trade in is exclusively south of Cape Juby; can you, therefore, inform us if this district is included in the Agreement concluded in 1895 between Her Majesty's Government and the Sultan of Morocco?

As we are compelled to come to a prompt decision on the matter, we should esteem it a favour if you could depute some official to see our Mr. Cox with reference to the question, and we have directed him to wait upon you at the Foreign Office at 12 o'clock on Monday, in the hope that you will be able to oblige us in the matter.

We are, &c.
(For John M. Lennard and Sons, Limited),
(Signed) J. MILNER LENNARD, *Director.*

No. 16.

Acting Vice-Consul Douglas to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 26.)

My Lord, *Las Palmas, July 14, 1897.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 12th instant, referring to Major Spilsbury, agent of the Globe Venture Syndicate, the contents of which I immediately communicated to him.

Major Spilsbury remarked and wished me to mention, when acknowledging the telegram, that as far as he had been able to ascertain every Englishman has the right to travel, reside, or trade in any part of Morocco subject to Police Regulations in force; and that there is nothing to exclude Sûs or other provinces from the Treaties, unless the Moorish Government pleads inability to secure the rights of the foreigner,

but in that case the Moorish Government's rights would cease from failure to exercise effective sovereignty.

If, on the other hand, the Sultan's Government is allowed to construe "Police Regulations" as the right to close the country the whole effects of the Treaty would be abrogated, for if the Moorish Government can apply this clause to Sûs why not to Haha or any other province.

With or without the Sultan's permission Major Spilsbury holds that he has a right to travel in the Sûs, and to be entitled to the same protection from Her Majesty's Government in that province as in any other part of Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DOUGLAS.

No. 17.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 26.)

(No. 90.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July 17, 1897.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 72 of the 14th ultimo, regarding the dispatch by the Sultan of a military expedition to the assistance of the Governor of Oujda, I have the honour to report that I have learnt from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez that the Shereef, Abdeselam-el-Amrani, left that city on the 11th instant with a body of 400 soldiers for Oujda.

Although the disturbances in that district have apparently quieted down in great measure, the arrival of this body of troops, which may probably be increased on its march by additional levies from the tribes through whose territory they will pass, will produce a good effect at Oujda.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 18.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(No. 79.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 26, 1897.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 86 of the 9th instant, in regard to the intention of Major Spilsbury, Agent of the Globe Venture Syndicate, to visit the Sus.

I approve the action which you have taken with a view to dissuade Major Spilsbury from the step which he contemplates.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 19.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(No. 80.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 26, 1897.*

WITH reference to Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 42 of the 1st April last in regard to the steps which he proposed to take with a view to bring to a speedy conclusion the settlement of the British claims against the Moorish Government on account of the disturbances in the M'zab district, I transmit to you the accompanying copy of a further letter from Messrs. Dehn and Heine.*

I request that you will furnish me with a report as to the present position of the question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* No. 11.

No. 20.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 27.)

(No. 91.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 19, 1897.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 87 of the 10th instant, and my telegram No. 23 of the 13th instant, regarding the visit of two vessels of war to support the demand of the United States' Consul-General for the settlement of certain questions pending between himself and the Moorish Government, I have the honour to report that I learn from Cid Hadj Mohammed Lebady that the letter received by him on the subject, and forwarded to the Sultan, was signed by the Admiral and not by the Consul-General, though it bore the stamp of the Consulate-General.

In this letter the Admiral demanded the payment of 5,000 dollars as compensation to Mr. Mathews, a former United States' Consul-General, still residing here, for losses incurred by failure to sell some land, owing to the imprisonment of a Moor, whom he had sent to Tetuan with the title-deeds to complete the sale.

The Admiral also complained of the Governor of Sherarda, a province in the interior, for having refused to recognize, as commercial agents of the United States' Vice-Consul at Laraiche, two Moors from Dukala, who had been permitted to settle in his province on entering into a written agreement that they would remain there, and would not associate themselves with foreigners. It was stated, moreover, that the Governor had not received the Vice-Consul with proper respect when he went to see him in connection with this matter.

The Admiral further complained of general inattention on the part of the Moorish authorities at Tangier to the representations made to them by the Consul-General, whose letters frequently remained long unanswered.

I am informed that a sum of 2,500 dollars has been claimed for the assault on the Moorish employé, reported in my despatch No. 87 of the 10th instant. The injured man, it appears, was under United States' protection as semsar of his employer, who had obtained letters of naturalization. No mention of this claim was however made in the Admiral's letter.

The United States' cruiser "Raleigh," which returned here on the 17th instant, will probably shortly visit several of the Moorish ports with the United States' Consul-General on board. The flag-ship "San Francisco" left Gibraltar on the 16th instant, but the Consul-General tells me he does not know her movements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

P.S. *July* 20.—Although the United States' Consul-General told me yesterday that he was not certain whether the "Raleigh" would visit the western ports, I find she left last night with that object, having on board the Consul-General and his clerk, and the Vice-Consul at Laraiche. I hear that it is intended to visit all the ports down to and including Mogador.

H. E. W.

No. 21.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 27.)

(No. 28.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, July* 27, 1897.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 26 of the 20th instant, I have the honour to report that the United States' Consul-General, Mr. Burke, arrived at Tangier this morning on board the United States' cruiser "Raleigh," after having visited all the western ports.

The United States' Vice-Consul at Laraiche proceeded to Morocco city from Mazagan, at which port he left the "Raleigh."

No. 22.

Foreign Office to Messrs. Dehn and Heine.

Gentlemen, *Foreign Office, July* 28, 1897.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st instant in regard to your claims against the Moorish Government on account of the disturbances in the M'zab district.

I am to inform you, in reply, that Sir A. Nicolson, Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, reported on the 1st April last that he had received a further letter from the Grand Vizier in December last, in which it was stated that the Moorish Government was "arranging the measures which will bring the case to a conclusion which will not harm the natives nor the merchants."

Sir A. Nicolson added that since the date of that note neither his colleagues nor himself had received any further intimation of the progress which was being made towards a settlement of the various claims, but that he was suggesting to the foreign Representatives at Tangier that they should once more address the Grand Vizier on the subject, and urge that a speedy conclusion of the matter should be arrived at.

No further information has been received on the subject, but a copy of your present letter will be sent to Tangier for a report.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 23.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 2.)

(No. 92.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 23, 1897.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 86 of the 9th instant regarding Major Spilsbury's intended visit to Sus in the interests of the Globe Venture Syndicate, I have the honour to report that I learn from the Vice-Consul at Mogador that Hadj Abdul Kerim Bey parted from Major Spilsbury at Mogador and left for England on the 22nd ultimo, allowing it to be understood that he had quarrelled with that gentleman.

Major Spilsbury remained at Mogador till the 7th instant, when he left for the Canaries, with the intention, it is believed, of sailing thence to Assaka, at the mouth of the Wad Nun, where, presumably, he would be met by the men with whom he had signed the Agreement referred to in my above-mentioned despatch.

I have received no definite information as to the exact purport of this Agreement, but I gather that it is for trading with the Wad Nun district by Assaka and the Canaries.

I trust that the warning your Lordship has caused to be conveyed to Major Spilsbury through the Vice-Consul at Las Palmas may cause him to abandon the project of landing on the Sus coast, for, were he to do so, the Vizier would probably give orders for his arrest, in accordance with his letter to Sir Arthur Nicolson of the 28th February last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 24.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 2.)

(No. 94.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 24, 1897.

M. GENTILE, Dragoman of the Italian Legation, having returned from the Moorish Court, where he had been on a Mission for the last eleven months, I took an opportunity of asking the Italian Minister whether he could give me any information as to the result of his negotiations.

M. Malmusi informed me that the Moorish Government had some time since asked the permission of his Government to sell the cruiser which had been built for the

late Sultan in Italy, and which caused them some embarrassment, as well as considerable expense. They possessed no naval officers fit to take charge of the vessel, and they could not place Italian officers in command for fear that other Governments would insist on building cruisers to be commanded by naval officers of their country.

The Italian Government raised no objection to the sale of the vessel provided that the Company who had built it be duly paid—a considerable sum being due for interest and the maintenance of the vessel. It was finally arranged that the vessel be sold by the Company in question, who would expend the money realized in the purchase of small steamers of the merchant class, steam-tugs, and launches for use at the Moorish ports, and for the transport of goods and materials from port to port.

M. Gentile was able also to effect a settlement, by composition, of a number of claims of Italian subjects and protégés, some of which were of old standing.

M. Malmusi further informed me that the arms factory which had been erected by the Italian Colonel who was formerly at the Shereefian Court, is now worked by two Italians, who only have Moors under them. Some difficulty had been experienced by these Italians in obtaining their wages, but M. Gentile has now succeeded in making satisfactory arrangements for their punctual payment.

A certain number of Moors were sent some years ago to be educated in Italy, and some of these were at the College at Turin. These Moors will be shortly returning to Morocco, and the College authorities are anxious to have a constant supply of Moors to educate. M. Gentile therefore endeavoured to obtain from the Moorish Government a promise that there should always be a certain number of Moors studying at that College. The Moorish Government hesitated to bind itself permanently, on the grounds of expense, but it undertook to continue, for the present, to send some youths tobe educated at Turin.

M. Malmusi added, in conclusion, that M. Gentile had been very well treated at the Court, and had been received, before leaving, by the Sultan, who had expressed the wish that he (M. Malmusi) should visit the Court to present his credentials. He considered that M. Gentile's Mission had been a success, and that it had tended to increase the good relations between the two Governments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 25.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 2.)

(No. 95.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 24, 1897.

IN course of conversation with the Italian Minister this morning, I inquired whether M. Gentile, while at the Shereefian Court, had learnt anything as to the recent Moorish Mission to Paris.

M. Malmusi replied that there appeared to be no doubt that the Envoy had really been affected in his head; and M. Gentile had gathered that he had left Paris without concluding the negotiations with which he had been encharged. He thought it possible that another Envoy would be sent to Paris to conclude those negotiations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 26.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 7.)

(No. 97.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 29, 1897.

WITH reference to Sir Arthur Nicolson's despatch No. 39 of the 27th March regarding the claim put forward by the master of the "Joven Enrique" and others, in consequence of the alleged piratical attack on that vessel in October last, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a letter I have received from the lawyer, acting for the claimants, complaining that the accused persons have not yet been arrested, and informing me that he is about to address a Memorial to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, praying that this claim be pressed by Her Majesty's Government.

As the accused persons are all Riffians, and probably absent from Tetuan, the Moorish authorities may very likely experience some difficulty in effecting their arrest. I am, however, instructing the Acting Vice-Consul at Tetuan to cause a watch to be kept for them, and should he ever learn that any of them are at Tetuan, to call upon the Governor to arrest them, in order that the inquiry may be held as soon as possible.

The very fact that the Riffians, who were on board the boat that took the cartridge cases from the "Joven Enrique," have voluntarily given evidence against themselves, appears to me to afford additional grounds for regarding this claim with suspicion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 26.

Mr. J. M. Porral to Mr. White.

Sir, 1, *Engineer's Lane, Gibraltar, July* 26, 1897.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have been retained to act in the matter of the British falucho "Joven Enrique" in the place of the late Mr. Pliny H. Pisani, and to request that all future communications herein may be addressed to me as the solicitor of the parties.

From a perusal of the papers in this case, I cannot help thinking that it is a very great pity Her Majesty's Government have not thought proper to take the matter up themselves, and that they should have left it to the persons aggrieved to institute proceedings against the alleged offenders. The painful outcome of such a course is that much valuable time has been lost, and that the results of the investigations are far from commensurate with the labours bestowed upon them.

It is to be regretted that, after the lapse of over nine months from the alleged outrage, the principal offender should be permitted to be at large, without any step having been taken to bring him before a court of law to answer for the misdeeds laid to his charge. The crime, of which the Moor Hamette and his companions are accused, is a crime against the law of nations, and not one of a private nature. If it were of the latter kind, one could understand the refusal on the part of the British Government to interfere, but, being of a public nature, and affecting as it does not one set of individuals, but the entire community, I cannot comprehend why there should have been any reluctance on the part of Her Majesty's Government to take action in the matter, and to direct the British Minister at Tangier to put forward a claim for compensation and damages against the Moorish Government.

It has come to my ears, though I cannot vouch for the accuracy of the report, that the principal offender has become either a naturalized Frenchman or a French protected person, and, if this is so, it would be an additional and a very weighty reason why he should not be proceeded against privately at the suit of the complainants.

With the certified copies of the depositions of the crew of the Moorish boat, which, I understand, are in your possession, and which corroborate in the main the statements of the master and crew of the "Joven Enrique," our case is complete, and, I venture to think, the evidence is so conclusive as to the piratical despoliation of the "Joven Enrique," that the matter should be again referred to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies. I purpose, therefore, to forward a Memorial, with a view to the claim being pressed by the Government, but, before doing so, I should be glad to hear from you, Sir, whether you have anything new to communicate to me hereon, and, at the same time, to have the benefit of your views on the subject, and of any suggestions which you might think proper to make.

Before concluding, I should wish to add, in reply to a query contained in your letter of the 29th April last to Mr. Pisani, that, as it would be highly inconvenient for my witnesses to attend to give evidence at Tetuan, I should esteem it a favour if some means could be devised to have the case tried at Tangier, where it would also be easier for me to attend at the hearing, if, as I suppose, there would be no objection to my presence in court.

Awaiting the favour of a reply, I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN M. PORRAL.

No. 27.

Mr. W. Jockimsen to Foreign Office.—(*Received August* 13.)

Sir, 26, *Great St. Helen's, London, August* 13, 1897.

MESSRS. JOHN M. LENNARD AND SONS (Limited), of Middlesbro-on-Tees, wrote me on the 27th of last month that their Mr. Cox had received from the Foreign Office advice and information, which induces them to decline a business respecting a concession in the Shingiti territory about which we had been negotiating.

Your officials are alleged to have said that Her Majesty's Government recognizes the coast between Cape Juby and Cape Bojador to be under Morocco influence, and that Her Majesty's Government had to send a gun-boat to obtain compensation for a North-West African Company from the Morocco Government.

As this information is of course very prejudicial to me and my friends I take the liberty to ask for such particulars as may be needed to define the above information more accurately.

1. Did the tort, for which compensation was sought in sending a gun-boat, arise in the Shingiti territory, *i.e.*, between Cape Juby and Cape Bojador; or where did it arise?

2. Had the North-West African Company the consent of the local Sheiks for trading, and who were those Sheiks?

3. Is the recognition of Morocco influence for that part of the coast a mere benevolent act of Her Majesty's Government, or the result of an international understanding?

I hope you will give me as explicit and detailed information as you can, because an unsatisfactory reply will, I fear, divert a trade of many millions sterling from this country, because I am told that another European country is willing to grant the protection which Her Majesty's Government apparently refuses to its subjects.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. H. JOCKIMSEN.

No. 28.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 14.)

(No. 99.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 6, 1897.

WITH reference to Sir Arthur Nicolson's despatch No. 60 of the 5th May reporting the collapse of the inquiry that was being held at Alcazar into the assault committed on Mr. Carleton, and transmitting translation of his letter to the Vizier, demanding the punishment of the Moorish Governor implicated, I regret to have to report that I have received a most unsatisfactory reply from the Vizier. I have the honour to inclose herewith a translation of this letter, from which your Lordship will learn that no punishment has been inflicted on the Governor in question; the Vizier appearing to insinuate, on the contrary, that Mr. Carleton is the only person to blame.

The Vizier's letter is so full of inaccuracies, and puts forward pretensions, which if allowed to pass unchallenged might afford so dangerous a precedent, that I have thought it necessary to enter very fully into all these points in my reply. I inclose herewith a translation of the letter I am addressing to the Vizier, and I trust that, under the circumstances, your Lordship will not consider the language I have employed too strong. It is, in my opinion, important that full satisfaction be obtained in this matter, but I fear from the tone of the Vizier's present letter that it will be more difficult to obtain than that his former letter had led us to expect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 27*.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 14.)

(No. 98.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 2, 1897.

HER Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez has reported to me that a Jew from Sefroo—a town about five hours distant from Fez—had called at his office, and had exhibited to him the marks of a flogging he had received by order of the Governor of Sefroo, under the following circumstances:—

The Governor wished to have some grain carried to an upper room in his house, and forced this Jew and several of his co-religionists to do the work for him almost gratuitously, and then, not being satisfied with the way this man had done the work, he ordered him to be flogged.

As the Governor has on several occasions dealt very harshly with the Jews under his jurisdiction, and has been remonstrated with on this account by the Viceroy, I have reported the case to the Vizier in a letter, a translation of which I have the honour to inclose herewith, and I have suggested that the Sultan should now accede to a request made by the Sefroo Jews about a year since, and remove them from the jurisdiction of the Governor of Sefroo, placing them instead under that of the Governor of New Fez, as they formerly were.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 27*.

Mr. White to the Grand Vizier.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) *Tangier, August* 2, 1897 (2 *Rabia I*, 1315).

A CASE has just been reported to me of a Jew at Sefroo, named Yusef Ben Mimou, having been flogged by Kaïd Omar Ben Taleb Mohamed Al Yusi, his only offence apparently being that, having, with several other Jews, been forced to carry grain almost gratuitously to an upper room at the Kaïd's house, he failed to accomplish the task to the satisfaction of the Kaïd.

I think it right to bring this case to your Excellency's notice at once, in order that you may inform the Sultan of it and obtain Shereefian orders that will prevent further ill-treatment of Jews by this Kaïd, who, as your Excellency is aware, has on several occasions been remonstrated with by the Viceroy of Fez, on account of his harsh treatment of the Jews of Sefroo, since they endeavoured to be withdrawn from his jurisdiction, and to be placed under that of the Basha of New Fez, as formerly.

It is as a true friend to the Sultan and to this country that I write to your Excellency regarding this matter, for such cases of cruelty to Jews are certain to be reported in the European press, and produce a very bad effect. I am certain that the Sultan, whose sentiments of justice and kindness towards His Sheerefian Majesty's Jewish subjects are well known, will strongly disapprove the conduct of Kaïd Omar Ben Taleb Mohamed Al Yusi, and I will venture to suggest, for His Majesty's consideration, whether it would not be expedient to accede to the wishes of the Jews at Sefroo, and to restore them to the jurisdiction of the Basha of New Fez?

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 28.

The Grand Vizier to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) 10 *Safar*, 1315 (*July* 11, 1897).

THE reply of the friend, the honourable Minister, Sir Arthur Nicolson, has reached us in the affair of the quarrel, caused by Mr. Carleton, with some of Kaïd Abdelkader-el-Khalkhali's men, stating that a full investigation was not made by taking the evidence of the witnesses who could give evidence about the case, as the Ameen and Adools who were sent by Government, and in the presence of your Deputy, would only accept Mussulman evidence and no other, &c.; and he requested that the case be judged on the documents which were inclosed in his letter, and that justice be done to the Englishman in whatever way is necessary.

We have informed His Majesty of this (God assist him!), and he is aware of it, and he has ordered me to lay before you the facts of the case and the documents of evidence received from both sides in the case from first to last, and thus clear away all complications, and then the decision will become apparent.

When Kaïd Khalkhali first prepared a document of evidence to which three Adools and many Mussulman testified—that Bibi (Carleton) kicked the Kaïd's man, and clutched him, and struck him on the head, and drew his pistol against him—they testified with one word (*i.e.*, without differing any point); Mr. Carleton also made a document of evidence that the Kaïd's man had struck him with a dagger, but that it did not reach his body, and that he followed him with stones and insulting him, and this is testified by some of Carleton's friends, and some of the evidence is conflicting, and some of the witnesses relied on hearsay, and some disproved it. Now you are aware that there is no strength in evidence of this description; His Majesty decided to exclude the evidence of both sides, and to take evidence from those who are impartial to both sides, by the Kaïd of Alcazar calling on those who had knowledge of the affair to testify what they knew, in the presence of the Ameen and Adools appointed by Government and of your Deputy, who would come from Tangier, in order that there might be no suspicion of partiality about their evidence. Then Bibi was present, and your Deputy from Tangier called witnesses to give evidence, and received evidence from those who had previously given evidence, which evidence was excluded with that first obtained by Kaïd-el-Khalkhali, and he took evidence from eight of the said witnesses; and you are aware that if these are admitted so must the others, and an examination be made of them all in accordance with Shraa. The evidence of those who are not Mussulmen is not counted as evidence by Shraa. The agreement with regard to the collection of evidence was that the disputants should not be allowed to agree to present evidence from everybody, but that it should be withdrawn from their hands and placed in the hands of the Government, who cannot take evidence save in accordance with Shraa, in order that a settlement of the dispute may be finished thereby.

If this is confirmed (*i.e.*, the above statements), and if it is true that Mesabel Du Kalli, who is the cause of this affair, interfered with the two prisoners of Kaïd Khalkhali, although he had no right to interfere with them, but should have spoken regarding them to his employer, Mr. Carleton; and if Carleton went direct to Kaïd-el-Khalkhali about the two prisoners, whereas he should have spoken with the Kaïd of Alcazar, as is the rule, to prove that the two men were his mokhalats, and the Kaïd of Alcazar would then have spoken with Khalkhali on the subject, if he had had previous notification from Tangier or from the Consul at Laraiche that they were his agents. Therefore His Majesty (God assist him!), has ordered me to again lay the facts before his Excellency, the respected friend, the Minister, Sir Arthur Nicolson, in order that he may carefully consider them, and justly search into the state of the person who caused this dispute which ended in the quarrel, and also into the bearing of the evidence and the position or standing of the witnesses, and what was necessitated by the exclusion of the evidence produced by both sides; and he will then form an opinion such as would be formed by one who acknowledges the truth, which is not hidden from any just person, for the Government has no partiality nor object in judging the affair save justly and in accordance with the facts, and we await his reply in his known just and equitable manner.

Finished. May you continue, &c.,

(Signed) HAMED-BEN-MOUSSA-BEN-HAMED.

Inclosure 2 in No. 28.

Mr. White to the Grand Vizier.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) *Tangier, August* 6, 1897 (*Rabia I.* 6, 1315).

I HAVE received your Excellency's letter of the 10th Safar (11th July) in reply to the Minister's letter of the 1st Heja (4th May), regarding the attack upon the Englishman, Mr. Carleton, at Alcazar, in which the Minister complained that the Ameen sent by the Sultan had refused to accept the evidence of Christians and Jews, and requested your Excellency to cause such punishment to be inflicted upon Kaïd-el-Khalkhali as is called for by his conduct throughout this affair.

It is with surprise and regret that I learn from your Excellency's letter that the Minister's request has not yet been acted upon, and that Kaïd-el-Khalkhali still remains unpunished for the very serious offence which he has committed. Your Excellency must have been greatly misled by those from whom you have received reports, for I observe many inaccuracies in your Excellency's letter.

Your Excellency states that, whereas the witnesses on behalf of Kaïd-el-Khalkhali gave identical evidence, those produced by Mr. Carleton gave conflicting evidence, some also being merely hearsay. With this statement I cannot agree, as exactly the contrary is the case. I have again carefully read the evidence originally produced by Mr. Carleton and find that all the witnesses exactly corroborate each other. Again, when the Minister sent Mr. Madden to Alcazar, immediately after the occurrence, he took the evidence of many witnesses, their testimony completely agreeing with what had been said before; and I have also asked the Interpreter, Mr. Irwin, who went subsequently to Alcazar and heard evidence in conjunction with the Ameen sent by the Sultan, and he tells me that, whilst the witnesses examined on behalf of Mr. Carleton agreed with each other, those who testified on behalf of Kaïd-el-Khalkhali gave their evidence in a very unsatisfactory manner, and contradicted each other on many points. At the same time it appears that the witnesses of Mr. Carleton were intimidated, whilst improper means were taken to obtain evidence on behalf of Kaïd-el-Khalkhali.

I am also much surprised to find that your Excellency appears to approve the course adopted by the Ameen in excluding the evidence of Christians and Jews. I had relied upon your Excellency's known sense of justice for a disapproval of the Ameen's conduct. Whatever may be suitable in a case tried before the Shraa in a place where there are none but Mussulman, it is manifestly unjust, in a place where there is a mixed community, to exclude the evidence of any class in that community. What would your Excellency think were a Moorish subject to bring a serious charge against a British subject in the Consular Court, and the Court were to refuse to hear any of his witnesses because they were Mussulman? A question of this kind is not one for the Kadi to decide by Shraa, but one for the Government to decide after hearing all the witnesses, whatever their creed may be.

Your Excellency further states that it was agreed to exclude the evidence of both sides, and of those who had previously given evidence. But if your Excellency will refer to your letter of the 21st Shawal (25th March), you will find that you state therein that the Sultan had ordered an Ameen and two Adools to go to Alcazar "to collect the evidence of all the inhabitants who have cognizance of the affair." There is no word in the letter of excluding evidence of any witnesses merely because they had previously given evidence, which would not be fair to Mr. Carleton, who naturally finds it difficult to obtain evidence; those who were present fearing the vengeance of the Kaïd.

Your Excellency observes that Mr. Carleton should not have made his complaint to Kaïd-el-Khalkhali direct, but to the Kaïd of Alcazar, and that the whole question arose therefrom. But even were this so, I cannot admit that a British subject can under these circumstances be exposed to insult and ill-treatment.

From all the evidence it is quite clear that the main facts of the case are as they were stated to your Excellency in the Minister's first letter: that is to say, that a British subject, when in the house and in the presence of Kaïd-el-Khalkhali, was stabbed by a soldier, a relative of the Kaïd, and was also struck by another soldier; that he with difficulty succeeded in escaping by mounting his horse and riding away, being in the meantime stoned and cursed by the Kaïd's people—the Kaïd himself apparently encouraging instead of stopping the attack. And I regret to add that, though more than five months have now passed since that occurrence, and though notwithstanding the conclusive nature of the evidence presented from the first against Kaïd-el-

Kkalkhali, Her Majesty's Minister has afforded every facility to your Excellency for making a full and impartial inquiry, the Minister's request that the guilty Kaïd be suitably punished has not yet been complied with. It is not thus that the bonds of friendship between the Governments are strengthened, for other Kaïds, seeing that such conduct on the part of Kaïd-el-Khalkhali is left unpunished, will be encouraged to extend the same treatment to other British subjects, and most serious questions will arise to bring trouble to the two Governments. I have therefore to repeat the request of Her Majesty's Minister that a suitable punishment be inflicted on Kaïd-el-Khalkhali, and I shall hope very shortly to learn from your Excellency the nature of the punishment that has been inflicted in order that I may report it to Her Majesty's Government.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 29.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 14.)

(No. 100.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 7, 1897.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 77 of the 21st ultimo, regarding the attack on the British falucho "Virgen de los Angeles," I have the honour to report that the Spanish Minister informs me that, in compliance with my request, he has asked the Captain-General of the Department of Cadiz to furnish him with copies of the proceedings of the inquiry into this matter held at Alhucemas, and that he will communicate them to me as soon as received.

As I hope to receive these documents before long, I venture to request that I be permitted to postpone presenting the claim and forwarding the note your Lordship instructs me to address to the Vizier until I shall have had an opportunity of perusing the proceedings of the inquiry, for it is possible that it may be found that the falucho was at the time engaged in contraband trade, in which case your Lordship may consider it advisable to omit all mention of any claim in the note to be addressed to the Vizier.

My reason for suspecting that this vessel may have been engaged in contraband trade is the fact that she cleared for Alhucemas on the 23rd March, but did not start till ten days later, this delay being occasioned, according to the statutory declaration of the owner, by contrary winds. I find, however, upon inquiry at Gibraltar, that during nearly the whole of that time the weather was favourable for a voyage to Alhucemas.

I have the honour to submit herewith, for your Lordship's approval, the draft of the letter I propose to address to the Vizier in the sense of your Lordship's instructions.

I have put the amount of the claim at 2,684 pes. 30 c., made up as follows:—

	Pes. c.
Damage to hull of vessel, sails, &c.	490 00
Demurrage	70 00
Fees to Surveyor..	172 80
„ Notary Public	701 50
Solicitor's fees, paid by owner	500 00
„ „ „ master and crew	750 00
Total	2,684 30

Equivalent to about 83*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*

The claim on behalf of master and crew, which is merely "for general damages in respect of the attack, assault, and trespass," having been disallowed, the fees paid by them to the solicitor should perhaps have been struck out. I have, however, included them in the claim, as the money has actually been paid.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 29.

Mr. White to the Grand Vizier.

(After compliments.) *Tangier, Rabia I*, 1315 (*August* , 1897).

ON the 2nd July I had the honour to address your Excellency a letter acquainting you with the attack that had been made upon a British falucho near Alhucemas by Riffians of the tribe of Bocoya, and furnishing your Excellency with full particulars of the occurrence.

I am now instructed by Her Majesty's Government to point out to your Excellency the frequent recurrence of these piratical acts, and to call your Excellency's attention to the fact that it is always by the Bocoya tribe that they are perpetrated, and yet that nothing whatever had been done to punish them or to check their attacks on vesses passing that district. It is the obvious duty of the Shereefian Government to maintain order and peace on their line of coast, and to exercise such control over the unruly tribesmen as shall prevent the recurrence of such acts, and a very heavy responsibility is incurred by the neglect of this duty.

I am further directed to remind your Excellency that the promise to send a punitive expedition into Bocoya has not yet been fulfilled, nor has effect been given to the Sultan's orders to send one of His Majesty's steamers to that district with cannon and a number of soldiers, as stated in your Excellency's letter to me of the 18th Rabia II, 1313, (8th October, 1895). It is the neglect to punish these people for their past misdeeds that has encouraged them to continue their piratical acts, the responsibility for which, therefore, rests entirely on the Shereefian Government.

In the present case, happily, there was no loss of life, though many shots were fired at the vessel, nor did the Riffians succeed in plundering any goods; a certain amount of damage was, however, done to the vessel, sails, and rigging, which necessitated the vessel being laid up some time for repairs. The amount to be paid as compensation to the owner of the vessel is therefore only 536 dol. 17 c., for the payment of which I request your Excellency to obtain Shereeffian orders. I further request your Excellency to bring this letter to the serious notice of the Sultan, pointing out the extreme gravity of the continuance of these frequent piratical attacks, and to urge His Majesty to issue stringent orders for the immediate punishment of the Bocoya tribe in such a manner as will effectually prevent the recurrence of such acts in the future.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 30.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 14.)

(No. 101.)

My Lord, *Tangier, August* 7, 1897.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith translation of a letter addressed by the Vizier to Sir Arthur Nicolson in reply to his letter conveying the expression of the regret of Her Majesty's Government at the illness of the Moorish Envoy at Paris. The latter part of this letter implies, though in veiled language, the probability of a Mission being sent to England at some future time.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 30.

The Grand Vizier to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.) 20 *Safar*, 1315 (*July* 21, 1897).

YOUR letter has reached oh friend, stating that when you reached England you heard of the illness of the Shereefian Envoy, our brother Cid Mehemed, which prevented his arrival in time to be present at the Jubilee of Her Exalted and Gracious Majesty the Queen, and you inform us, acting under instructions from your respected Government, of their great grief and regret, and express their wishes for the complete re-establishment of his health. We have communicated this to His Majesty—may

his greatness endure—and he has instructed me to reply, oh sincere friend, that this illness was manifested by Allah, and could not have been anticipated, as he had been found trustworthy in all important matters which had been confided to him, and as Allah—who is exalted above all—has decreed this illness, there is no repelling his decrees, and His Majesty has ordered me to say that the Shereefian Government is as concerned as your Government, or more so, but that by the fact of the equipment of this Embassy and its embarcation and its near arrival at its destination, nothing of its object has been lost, and it is as though it had been present. Moreover, the strong friendship established firmly between the two Governments commands that the union shall follow later, and that the long continued friendship shall suffer no break, and our wishes attained.

His Shereefian Majesty thanks your respected Government for the interest it has taken in this Embassy, and for its expressions of regret which correspond to His Majesty's expectations, by reason of his knowledge of the past and present sincerity of your Government, as I also thank your beloved Excellency for the attention and solicitude you have shown.

Finished. May you continue, &c.

(Signed) HAMED-BEN-MOUSSA-BEN-HAMED.

No. 31.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(No. 85.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 14, 1897.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 97 of the 29th ultimo, relating to the pillage of the "Joven Enrique," and I approve of your having instructed the Acting British Vice-Consul at Tetuan to have a watch kept for those implicated in this matter with a view to their arrest.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 32.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 30.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 18, 1897.

RIFF pirates have attacked an Italian sailing-vessel, and taken prisoner the master and two sailors; the rest of the crew succeeded in escaping with the vessel. The above information was communicated to the Spanish Minister by the Governor of Melilla, but according to a report that reached Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres the vessel was under the French flag.

No. 33.

Foreign Office to Mr. W. Jockimsen.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 20, 1897.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant with reference to the question of opening up trade relations with the tribes on the north-west coast of Africa between Cape Juby and Cape Bojador.

I am to state that it seems unnecessary to enter into particulars as to the events prior to the withdrawal of the North-West Africa Company in 1895. In March of that year, however, Her Majesty's Government came to an agreement with the Moorish Government by which they recognized the authority of the Sultan of Morocco over "the lands that are between Wad Drad and Cape Bojador, and which are called Terfaya, and all the lands behind it."

It was further agreed that the port of Cape Juby should remain open for buying and selling, and that the customs duties for exports and imports should be the same as at other ports on the coast. The Moorish Government agreed to grant suitable lots of land on twenty years' lease to foreign merchants on the application of their

respective Legations, upon which such merchants might construct, at their own expense, whatever dwellings and warehouses they might find necessary. At the end of the twenty years' lease the said allotments, with the buildings thereon, to become the property of the Moorish Government. The Moorish Government, however, declared that they would not be bound to provide houses or warehouses, nor to supply boats to land or ship cargo until such time as it might please the Sultan to give orders to that effect.

Such being the terms of the commercial portion of the agreement come to with the Moorish Government in the year 1895, I am to state that Her Majesty's Government cannot countenance or sanction any trading operations by British subjects in the district in question unless they should be in conformity with those conditions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

No. 34.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 21.)

(No. 102.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 9, 1897.

I HAVE the honour to report that I have learnt from the Spanish Minister that his Government have decided to establish a small body of detective-police at Tangier, and that the Spanish Chambers have voted a sum to provide for the salaries of four detectives and an Inspector.

The Spanish Colony being very large, and being composed in great measure of men of bad character, the want of a proper police force has long been felt; it is therefore a matter of satisfaction that the Spanish Government has now decided to supply this want.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 35.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 21.)

(No. 104.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 12, 1897.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 27 of the 22nd ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch I have received from the Vice-Consul at Mogador, reporting as to his attestation of a document brought to him for that purpose by Major Spilsbury, agent of the Globe Venture Syndicate.

Mr. Vice-Consul Johnston states that he believes the document in question provided for the sale of land to Major Spilsbury by the two men from Wad Nun who accompanied him, and also purported to grant him a monopoly of the trade in that district. These men were, it appears, a Sheikh of Erksis, near Cape Nun, and a relation of the Chief of the Eleegh tribes, who has lately been hard pressed by the Sultan's troops.

Mr. Johnston explains that after some hesitation he decided to attest the document in question, although it appeared to be irregular, as his having on a previous occasion attested a somewhat similar document had not been disapproved.

From reports that have reached Mr. Johnston, it appears that Major Spilsbury made an unsuccessful attempt to land on the Sûs coast near Erksis. I have also heard that rumours were current at Mogador that Europeans had landed at Erksis or Assaka, and constructed three forts of sand bags.

The Sultan's steamer "Alhassaunee," which was at Mogador, was at once dispatched to the Sûs coast to ascertain what truth there was in these rumours, and we will doubtless receive more definite information on the subject shortly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 35.

Vice-Consul Johnston to Mr. White.

Sir, *Mogador, August* 6, 1897.

IN reply to your despatch No. 10 of the 23rd ultimo, calling for a Report on Major Spilsbury's operations in connection with persons from Wad Nun, I have the honour to report that the document which he describes as a Treaty was brought by him to the Vice-Consulate on the 1st July last for his signature and those of the Wad Nun men to be attested.

As Major Spilsbury offered to supply me with a copy of his translation of this document, which he has not done, I did not retain a Memorandum of its contents, which provided, to the best of my recollection, for the sale of land to Major Spilsbury, and, generally speaking, gave him a practical monopoly of trading round Assaka. The absence of any clause making the execution of this Agreement contingent upon the Sultan's consent made me somewhat doubtful as to the propriety even of certifying the signatures, but on referring to correspondence between the Legation and this Vice-Consulate on the subject of the Kirby Syndicate's Treaty in 1893, where I had certified signatures on similar documents, and my action generally was approved by Lord Rosebery, I withdrew my objection to performing this notarial act. As on the former occasion, I pointed out to both parties of the Agreement that this certification in no way legalized any part of their contract, nor would it secure for them the slightest degree of support or recognition from Her Majesty's Government for anything that might be illegal in their conditions.

Major Spilsbury left on the 7th July for the Canaries, taking with him the two Wad Nun men, one of whom is, I understand, a Sheikh of Erksis, and the other a relation of Kaïd Mohammed-ben-Hosein, the well-known Chief of the Eleegh tribes.

I hear on good authority that Major Spilsbury chartered a vessel at Las Palmas, and went in her, about the 16th instant, to the coast near Erksis. Though the reports of what happened there are still somewhat vague, there is no doubt that he was met by opposition from the Royal troops, and returned to the Canaries without advancing his plans.

I anticipate getting some detailed news in the course of a few days, and shall at once communicate it to you.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. L. N. JOHNSTON.

No. 36.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(No. 88.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 23, 1897.

I APPROVE the note which you addressed to the Grand Vizier relating to matters connected with the attack on Mr. Carleton at Alcazar, copy of which was inclosed in your despatch No. 99 of the 6th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 37.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(No. 89.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 25, 1897.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 100 of the 7th instant relating to the attack on the British falucho "Virgen de los Angelos," and I concur in your suggestion that the note to the Moorish Government on this subject and the presentation of the claim for compensation shall both be postponed until the receipt of the further particulars expected from the Spanish Minister.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 38.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 27.)

(No. 106.)

My Lord, *Tangier, August* 20, 1897.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 104 of the 12th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch I have received from the Vice-Consul at Mogador, acquainting me with the result of Major Spilsbury's visit to the Sus, according to the reports that have reached Mogador.

From these reports, it appears that Major Spilsbury was well received by a section of the Wad Nun people, amongst whom he distributed a considerable sum of money, but that others of the tribesmen were opposed to him.

Some sort of document is said to have been drawn up regarding a transfer of land to the Globe Venture Syndicate, and to opening up of trade, but with the proviso that the Sultan's assent be obtained, or that a foreign Power lends its protection.

The Sultan's steamer "Hassannee" had not yet returned from its trip down the Sus coast, when Mr. Vice-Consul Johnston wrote, but it was stated that the Commander of the Sultan's troops in Sus had sent twenty-five cavalry to Erksees to ascertain what had passed, and to warn the tribe; possibly, also, to arrest Major Spilsbury, had he still been there.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 38.

Vice-Consul Johnston to Mr. White.

(No. 10.)

Sir, *Mogador, August* 11, 1897.

REFERRING to my despatch No. 9 of the 6th instant on the subject of Major Spilsbury's operations, I have the honour to report that news has now come up by land, which leaves no doubt that some fortnight or three weeks ago he landed at or near Erksees, the most convenient port for the trading centre Ouglemine (sometimes spelt Eglimine) in Wad Nun, and was met and hospitably entertained in his own tents, during his stay of three or four days, by a portion of the tribe of Sbouya. This is the same tribe which dealt with Mr. James Curtis, in that person's 1883 expedition. My informants state that a quarrel arose between the party favourable to Major Spilsbury and some tribesmen who were probably non-recipients of the very liberal bounty (800 dollars) which he is said to have distributed among his hosts. The difference of opinion seems to have led to nothing more serious than an interchange of stone-throwing; the anti-Spilsbury party retreating on hearing the report of a fire-arm from the visitor's camp. What understanding, if any, was arrived at it is impossible to say with certainty, but reports mostly agree that a considerable number of tribesmen gave their signatures, through their notaries, to an engagement of some kind transferring land to and trading with Major Spilsbury, though it is stated that the tribe stipulated that the Concession must either be ratified by the Sultan, or protected in its operation by a foreign Power.

All this seems likely enough to be a substantially true account of what happened, though here, as elsewhere in Morocco, there is a great lack of precision, not so much as the date of the landing being obtainable. I think, however, that Major Spilsbury's stay in or near Erksees must have been from about the 20th to 24th July. He is then understood to have returned to the Canaries. On learning what had taken place, I understand that Kaïd-el-Guilooly sent some twenty-five cavalry from Messa to Erksees to warn the tribe of the probable consequences of encouraging strangers to land in the Sultan's territory, and to get a correct, or more likely an incorrect, account of the tribe's doings in the matter.

On Sunday evening last, the 8th instant, the Sultan's steamer "Hassannee" was hastily dispatched from this port for the south. I am informed that her first port of call was to be Agadir, where by Royal orders she was to pick up troops from Kaïd-el-Guilooly's force, and that she would then proceed to Erksees to land them there. The

employment of the "Hassannee," when the troops could easily get by land to the point aimed at, was probably decided on as likely to impress the Sbouya people with a sense of the Sultan's ability to move troops more quickly than heretofore.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. L. N. JOHNSTON.

No. 39.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 27.)

(No. 108.)

My Lord, *Tangier, August* 21, 1897.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 80 of the 26th ultimo, transmitting copy of a letter from Messrs. Dehn and Heine regarding the claims of British subjects arising out of the disturbances in the Mzab district, I have the honour to inclose herewith translation of a letter received from the Vizier in June last, stating that the Moorish Government was taking steps to effect a settlement of these claims, but that delay had been occasioned by the fact that claims had been presented by various Legations, and that, therefore, all must be settled simultaneously. I believe that a practically identic letter was addressed to the other Legations.

Nothing further has been heard from the Vizier on the subject, nor are there any signs that lead me to expect a speedy settlement of the claims, unless advantage is taken of the rumoured approaching journey of the Court from Morocco City to Rabat to levy a contribution on the Mzab people and their neighbours as the Sultan passes them on the way. I have spoken on the subject to the French and other Representatives, and I find that they do not entertain great hopes of a speedy settlement.

I have addressed a further letter to the Vizier, pointing out that more than a year has now elapsed since the disturbances, and requesting him to hasten the settlement of the claims.

With regard to Messrs. Dehn's and Heine's claims against Mohammed-el-Hartzi-el-Slawi, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Acting Vice-Consul at Rabat having reported that this Moor had not fulfilled his engagements for payment of the sum due to Messrs. Dehn and Heine by monthly instalments, and having requested me to obtain an order for the sale of certain property which he had mortgaged to that firm as security for his debt, I addressed a letter in that sense to Cid Hadj Mahamed Lebady on the 9th instant, and, not having yet received a reply, I presume he is making inquiries at Sallee on the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 39.

The Grand Vizier to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.) 27 *Hejja*, 1314 (*May* 29, 1897).

YOUR reply has reached us, O friend, in answer to what we had previously addressed to you on the subject of the losses accruing to your merchants at the Mzab Kasbah, and how pleased you are at hearing the Makhzen is taking steps to bring about a settlement of the case, and you ask that efforts should be made towards concluding the affair. Now, we have understood all this after bringing it to the knowledge of my Lord (the victorious in God), and he has ordered me (may God fortify him) to answer you. O friend, how the case stands for the pacification of your mind. The Makhzen is using all its solicitude and attention in order to arrive at the conclusion of a settlement of the claims put forward by foreign merchants, and such cases cannot be settled separately, for, if the losses had only been confined to certain ones, settlement would not have been delayed up till now; but, under any circumstances, steps have been taken, and when all is finished you will be informed by the power of God.

May you remain, &c.

(Signed) AHMED-BEN-MOUSSA-BEN-AHMED.

No. 40.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 27.)

(No. 31.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 27, 1897.

THE Riffs have attacked a Portuguese sailing-vessel and taken captive the master and four sailors. This information has been given me by the Portuguese Chargé d'Affaires.

No. 41.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 27.)

(No. 32.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 27, 1897.

MAJOR SPILSBURY'S visit to Sus.

Cid Hadj Mohammed Torres has addressed me a letter complaining of the visit, and asking that Major Spilsbury be not allowed to return to the Sus. Should he do so, Cid Torres says, the sole responsibility will rest with himself.

No. 42.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 33.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 31, 1897.

RABAT Customs authorities having detected a sailor from a British sailing-ship smuggling bullets, and having found a considerable quantity of bullets on board the vessel, on search, demanded that the offenders be punished. The Acting British Consul at Dar-al-Baida was accordingly instructed by me to proceed to Rabat and try the charge—the prosecution being conducted by the Vice-Consul at that port.

I now learn from the Consul that all the crew, as well as the master, are either Portuguese or Spanish subjects. Shall I instruct the Consul that the master and crew, as well as the vessel, are under his jurisdiction?

The Portuguese Chargé d'Affaires and the Spanish Minister, whom I have consulted on this point, are both of opinion that the master and crew are justiciable in Her Britannic Majesty's Consular Court.

No. 43.

Foreign Office to Messrs. Dehn and Heine.

Gentlemen, *Foreign Office, August* 31, 1897.

WITH reference to my letter of the 26th ultimo, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to inform you that a despatch has been received from Mr. White, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tangier, stating that a letter was received from the Vizier in June last which announced that the Moorish Government was taking steps to effect a settlement of the claims of British subjects arising out of the disturbances in the Mzab district, but that delay had been occasioned by the fact that other claims had been presented by various Foreign Legations, and that therefore all must be settled simultaneously.

He states that nothing further has been heard from the Vizier on the subject. He has, however, addressed a letter to the Vizier pointing out that more than a year has elapsed since the disturbances, and requesting him to hasten the settlement of the claims arising therefrom.

Mr. White also reports that he learns from the Acting British Vice-Consul at Rabat that Mohammed El Hartzi El Slawi has not fulfilled his engagement to pay, by monthly instalments, the debt owing to your firm, and that the Acting Vice-Consul has consequently requested him to obtain an order for the sale of certain property which this Moor had mortgaged to your firm as security for his debt.

Mr. White adds that, on the 9th instant, he addressed a letter in this sense to Cid Hadj Mahamed Lebady, but as he has not yet received a reply, he presumes that inquiries are being made at Gallee on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. H. VILLIERS.

No. 44.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received Septembrr* 1.)

(No. 568.)
My Lord, *Paris, August* 31, 1897.

I HAVE the honour to report that the French press state that the Russian Government are about to appoint a Russian Minister in Tangiers, and point to it as an evidence of their intention to support French interests in Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 45.

Memorandum by Mr. Villiers.

SIR E. THORNTON called here this morning, and I spoke to him very strongly about Major Spilsbury's proceedings.

I explained the conditions on which trade with the Moorish possessions on the north-west coast of Africa is permitted, and told him—

1. That the Moors had made a formal complaint about Major Spilsbury.

2. That Kaïd Maclean had written urging the abandonment of the scheme. (I read him the Kaïd's letter to Sir A. Nicolson.)

3. That, if the Syndicate persisted, we should have to give them a formal warning, which we should publish.

Sir E. Thornton assured me, in the first place, that there was no idea of any trade in arms or ammunition. He tried to argue that the Company have a right by Treaty to trade in the district, and ought to be supported. He then said that co-operation was being sought for in France with some prospect of success, and it was believed M. Hanotaux was inclined to favour the scheme. He also mentioned that Major Spilsbury was acting in his own name, and that if the Company broke with him he would transfer his services elsewhere.

Sir Edward promised, however, to consult his fellow Directors, and to let me know the result. He did not seem sanguine about their giving way.

F. H. V.

Foreign Office, September 2, 1897.

No. 46.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(No. 10.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, September* 3, 1897, 4 P.M.

SMUGGLING at Rabat: your telegram No. 33 of the 31st August.

I approve the instructions which you propose to send to the Consul.

No. 47.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(No. 94.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 7, 1897.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 33 of the 31st ultimo, stating that the master and crew of a British sailing-vessel, who are all Spanish and Portuguese subjects, are charged with smuggling a considerable quantity of bullets at Rabat, and inquiring whether the Acting British Consul at Dar-el-Baida, who is to try the case, should be instructed to exercise jurisdiction over the crew as well as over the vessel.

Article V of "The Morocco Order in Council, 1889," relating to the application and effect of the Order, declares that the jurisdiction thereby conferred shall extend to certain persons and matters, which are therein enumerated, and amongst them are the following:—

"British ships, with their boats, and the persons and property on board thereof or belonging thereto, being on the coasts or in the harbours or waters of any country or place within the limit of this Order."

In another paragraph of the same Article foreigners are included "who submit themselves to the jurisdiction," &c.

But without this submission the passage already quoted appears to cover the present case so far as British jurisdiction in connection with the law of this country is concerned, and as you have obtained the consent of the Spanish and Portuguese Representatives to the exercise of British jurisdiction over their nationals, I concur in your instructing the Acting British Consul to exercise jurisdiction over the crew as well as over the vessel.

I instructed you briefly in this sense on the 3rd instant by telegraph.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 48.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 8.)

(No. 110.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 27, 1897.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 32 of this date, I have the honour to transmit herewith translation of a letter I have received from Cid Hadj Mohammed Torres regarding Major Spilsbury's recent visit to Sus. His Excellency states that Major Spilsbury's presence in that district nearly gave rise to a disturbance of the peace, and he requests that he be prevented from returning there, casting upon him all responsibility for what may occur should he do so.

I understand from Cid Hadj Mohammed Torres that he has not yet received any instructions on this subject from the Court, as the report of the officials who visited the Ait-Bou-Amran district had not yet reached the Sultan. It is probable, therefore, that I shall shortly receive a letter from the Vizier complaining of Major Spilsbury's action.

In answer to my inquiry Cid Hadj Mohammed Torres informed me that there was no truth in the rumour that Europeans had landed in the Sus from a steamer and constructed forts there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 48.

Cid Hadj Mohammed Torres to Mr. White.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) 26 *Rabia I*, 1315 (*August* 26, 1897).

NEWS has reached of what is circulated in the coast of Ait-Bou-Amran in the Sus country, that a vessel had gone there with a number of Christians on board, amongst them an Englishman named Major (Spilsbury?), who had been in Morocco city, and who had then proceeded in the vessel, and disembarked in the said place, and the natives gathered about him, and there almost occurred a quarrel and a fight between them, and had it not been for the presence of some of the wise men and Headmen of the district they would certainly have occurred, and that would have caused that which would perturb peaceable minds.

It is necessary to inform your Excellency of the event, in order that you may have knowledge of it, and that your Excellency may order this merchant to abstain from this rashness which is not wont to be done by such as he, because if he repeats it, the responsibility rests with himself.

And your reply.

May you continue, &c. Peace.

(Signed) MOHAMMED BEN EL ARBI TORRES.

No. 49.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 8.)

(No. 111.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 27, 1897.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch I have received from Captain Cromie, Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Dar-al-Baida, reporting the seizure of 861 lbs. in weight of leaden bullets on board a British vessel at Rabat, and the request of the Moorish authorities for the punishment of the offenders, the importation of lead and ammunition of war into Morocco being prohibited under Article II of the Convention of Commerce between Great Britain and Morocco.

Following the precedent of the prosecution of a British subject for smuggling rifle-cartridges at Mogador in 1894,* I have instructed Captain Cromie to proceed to Rabat to try the case, and to direct the Acting Vice-Consul to act as prosecutor; and I trust your Lordship will approve my action, and sanction the expenses to be incurred by Captain Cromie being charged in his account with Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 49.

Captain Cromie to Mr. White.

(No. 84.)
Sir, *Dar-al-Baida, August* 23, 1897.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith copy of a despatch I have received from Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Moore of Rabat, reporting the discovery, on board a British ship at that port, of a large quantity of leaden bullets, and that one of the crew was caught passing some of them through the Custom-house.

The bullets have all been seized by the Oomana, and they now ask for the punishment of the offenders.

By Order 118 of the Morocco Order in Council, uncommissioned Consular officers have no jurisdiction in cases of smuggling, and by Order 107 no proceedings can be taken except with the consent of the Consul-General, who will nominate the prosecutor.

I should be grateful if you would instruct me whether I am to proceed to Rabat to try this case. In that event I would suggest that Mr. Moore should prosecute on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen.

I have instructed Mr. Moore to detain the vessel until I receive your instructions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. F. CROMIE.

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* See Consul-General Satow's despatch No 146, of December 27, 1894.

Inclosure 2 in No. 49.

Acting Vice-Consul Moore to Captain Cromie.

(No. 47.)
Sir, *Rabat, August* 21, 1897.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the British vessel "Joven Enrique" anchored in this river on the 18th instant with a cargo of melons from Laraiche.

This morning the Oomana sent to inform me that one of the sailors had been caught bringing contraband on shore, and asked me to allow a search to be instituted on board the vessel. To this I agreed, going on board myself, the result being that leaden bullets to the weight of 861 lbs. were found. The captain replied that he was ignorant of the affair, and that the contraband belonged to the sailors.

The Oomana here have taken possession of the contraband, and now request that punishment of some kind be given to prevent, as far as possible, further smuggling at this port.

I have the honour, therefore, to beg you to inform me if punishment is to be given, and if so, of what nature it shall consist.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK W. MOORE.

No. 50.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 8.)

(No. 112.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 30, 1897.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 31 of the 27th instant, I have the honour to report that the Portuguese sailing-vessel which was attacked by Riffians of the Bocoya tribe was on its way from Oran to Faro with a cargo of Esparto grass, when it was boarded by the Riffians whilst becalmed near Alhucemas.

After the master and four of the crew had been taken from the vessel a breeze sprang up which enabled the remainder of the crew to escape.

The first news of the piracy reached the Portuguese Vice-Consul at Tetuan, who is a native Jew, from a friend and co-religionist of his residing in Bocoya. The Portuguese Chargé d'Affaires, hearing that this man was well considered by the people of Bocoya, requested him to negotiate the release or ransom of the captives.

News has reached Tangier that he has already succeeded in obtaining the liberty of two of the Portuguese sailors without ransom, as it is believed, and that he hopes to negotiate the freedom of their fellows, as also of the master and sailors captured on the Italian vessel. The Italian Minister and the Portuguese Chargé d'Affaires have given him *carte blanche* as to the amount of ransom to be paid, of which repayment will doubtless be claimed from the Moorish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 51.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 8.)

(No. 113. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 1, 1897.

ON several occasions during the last few years there have been reports that the Russian Government proposed to appoint a Minister at Tangier; but now I learn that, though no appointment has yet been actually made, it has been definitely decided to name a Consul-General with the rank of Chargé d'Affaires.

Hitherto Russian interests in this country have been intrusted to the Spanish Minister, and I am informed at the Spanish Legation that M. de Ojeda has himself repeatedly

urged on the Russian Government the expediency of having a Russian Representative at Tangier, although it is difficult to understand on what grounds this recommendation could have been based, as Russia has, I believe, but one subject resident in Morocco, and no commercial interests whatever.

The general impression is that, in sending a Representative to Morocco, Russia is more probably actuated by a desire to be agreeable to France, whose policy in this country she may find it convenient to support.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 52.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 8.)

(No. 34.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September* 8, 1897.

RIFF piracies.

I am informed by the Representatives of Italy and Portugal that an offer has been made by the Riff tribesmen to deliver up all the captives they hold in exchange for the Riffian imprisoned here, and the two others which the Spanish authorities hold in prison. The former prisoner is one of the two Riffs referred to by Sir Arthur Nicolson in his despatch No. 25 of the 24th February. Would your Lordship desire me to consent to the man's release?

No. 53.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 11.)

(No. 114.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 3, 1897.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 112 of the 30th ultimo regarding the piratical attack on the Portuguese vessel "Rosita," I have the honour to report that news has reached Tangier that the same vessel was brought back by the currents to the same neighbourhood, and was again boarded by the Riffians, who captured a boy in addition to those previously taken.

I have received a despatch from the Deputy Governor of Gibraltar, forwarding copy of a letter addressed to him by a Mr. Ferrary of that place, who states that the "Rosita" was commanded by his nephew, Juan Rosendo Mascarenhas, who is a British subject, in proof of which he incloses a certificate of birth, showing that he was born at Gibraltar on the 1st March, 1862, his father being a native of Portugal. Mr. Ferrary requests that active steps may be taken for the rescue of his nephew, "without prejudice to the consequent indemnity for damages."

I have spoken on the subject to the Portuguese Chargé d'Affaires, who informed me that Juan Rosendo Mascarenhas is a Portuguese subject, and that he could not otherwise be master of the "Rosita," as under Article 8 of the Portuguese Navigation Act of 1863, the master of a Portuguese vessel must be a Portuguese subject.

Under the circumstances, and as all possible steps are being taken by the Portuguese Chargé d'Affaires, I propose, in the absence of instructions from your Lordship, to confine my action in this matter to taking an opportunity of verbally and unofficially urging Cid Hadj Mohammed Torres to do all he can to hasten the release of the captive.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 53*.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(No. 11.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, September* 11, 1897, *midnight.*

I HAVE received your telegram No. 34 of the 8th instant. The release of a Riff in exchange for one of the prisoners referred to would not be expedient.

No. 54.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. H. White.

(No. 12.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, September* 14, 1897, 3·50 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 34.

Portuguese and Italian Representatives here have both been instructed to press for our consent to exchange of prisoners with the Riffs. Do you consider that there is any danger to the captives from our refusal? Report what course the Spanish authorities take as regards the two prisoners in their hands, and what prospect there is of obtaining the release of the European prisoners by other means.

No. 55.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 15.)

(No. 35.)
(Telegraphic) P. *Tangier, September* 15, 1897.

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram No. 12, I do not think there is any danger of the captives being killed if we refuse to exchange, but I fear they would have to undergo many hardships, and I hear, further, that one of them is ill.

As regards the Spanish prisoners, the Minister here tells me they cannot be released before the end of their trial. He has, however, advised his Government that the proceedings be hastened, and that, should the two prisoners demanded by the Riffs be found guilty, a pardon should be granted.

The Lieutenant-Governor of Tangier left this morning on board an Italian cruiser for Alhucenas, in order to negotiate the ransom of the captives, but should he fail in this, I fear the chances of release, except by exchange, are small.

No. 56.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(No. 98.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 15, 1897.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 114 of the 3rd instant relating to the piratical attack on the Portuguese vessel "Rosita," and I approve the communication which you propose to address to Cid Hadj Mohammed respecting the detention of the master of this ship.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 57.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 17.)

(No. 115. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 6, 1897.

WITH reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the recent piracies committed by Riffians of the Bocoya tribe, I have the honour to report that the French Chargé d'Affaires went to Tetuan on the 2nd instant, and on the following night dispatched the French Consular Agent at that place to Bocoya by sea in one of the Riff sailing-vessels.

The Consular Agent is an Algerian, and his instructions are, I understand, to ascertain on what conditions the captives will be released.

The French Chargé d'Affaires finds great fault with the Spanish Government for not having yet brought to a conclusion the trial of the Riffians captured at the time of their attack on a French vessel in October last. He attributes the recent piracies of the Bocoya tribe as a retaliation for the treatment of their brethren by the Spanish authorities, and thinks that the prisoners should have been tried at once, those found guilty punished, and the remainder set at liberty. He added that if these Riffians were released he would engage, through the influence of the Shereefs, to put a stop to piracy. The display of force against the Bocoya tribe would, in his opinion, endanger the lives of the captives; he therefore deprecated the sending of any vessels of war to that coast.

The Spanish Minister, on the other hand, points out that it is impossible for them to set at liberty the Riffian prisoners, several Spanish sailors having been killed at the time of the attack. He suspects that the Shereef, who visited Bocoya on a French man-of-war and obtained the release of the captain of the French boat, must have given a promise to the Riffians that if the captain were released he would obtain the release of the prisoners taken by the Spaniards, and that it is on that account that the French Chargé d'Affaires is so anxious that they should be set at liberty.

M. de Ojeda informed me that the Spanish Government had decided to station some gun-boats at Alhucemas and Melilla, and that he hoped they would thus be able to prevent any further piracies by the Bocoya, for nearly all the recent attacks on European vessels have been witnessed by the authorities at Alhucemas, who were powerless to render any assistance.

I understand that another of the sailors from the Portuguese vessel "Rosita" has obtained his liberty, and that negotiations are still continuing through the Riffian Jew, Pinto, the friend of the Portuguese Consular Agent at Tetuan, for the release of the other captives.

This Pinto, it appears, is under Spanish protection, and owes his influence with the Riffians to being in league with them for smuggling arms and ammunition into the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 58.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 17.)

(No. 116.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 8, 1897.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 33 of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch I have received from Captain Cromie, Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Dar-al-Baida, reporting the result of the trial of the master of the British falucho "Joven Enrique" for smuggling at Rabat.

Captain Cromie explains that not wishing to detain the vessel longer at Rabat, he decided to hear the case without awaiting the receipt of instructions as to the jurisdiction of the Court over the master and crew; and, the charge having been proved, he imposed a fine of 34 dollars, being the value of the contraband goods.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 58.

Captain Cromie to Mr. White.

(No. 90.)
Sir, *Dar-al-Baida, September* 6, 1897.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 77 of the 27th ultimo on the subject of the seizure of contraband on board the British vessel "Joven Enrique," I have the honour to report that on Tuesday, the 31st ultimo, I proceeded overland to Rabat, where I arrived on the 1st instant.

On Thursday, the 2nd instant, the master of the "Joven Enrique" having been summoned under Article 107 of the Morocco Order in Council, appeared before me to answer the charge of smuggling. He admitted the truth of the facts, but urged that they occurred without his knowledge. On my pointing out to him that he as master was responsible for what was on board his ship, he replied that he was aware of that.

The evidence showed that one of the crew was searched when passing through the Custom-house, and about 40 lbs. of leaden bullets found concealed in a canvas band round his waist.

The Custom-house authorities, accompanied by Mr. Moore, Acting British Vice-Consul, then searched the ship, and found three sacks of bullets concealed under the inner wooden skin of the vessel.

The total quantity seized amounted to 851 lbs.

There was no dispute as to the facts.

Taking into consideration that the ship had been detained some days in consequence of this charge, and that, as far as I could learn, none of the lead had been successfully passed, I fined the master once the value of the lead seized, which amounted to 34 dollars, and the costs of the action.

The fine and costs were paid. I may mention that, as the master was a Spanish subject, before proceeding to trial I consulted the Spanish Consul at Rabat as to whether there would be any objection on his part to the man being tried by British law. He replied that every offence committed on board a British ship was triable by British law, and that he had no objection to offer.

As regards the man who attempted to pass the lead, he was a Portuguese subject, and as the offence was committed on land and not on board ship, I was doubtful as to my power to try him, and informed the Administrators to that effect.

I trust that you will be pleased to approve my action in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. F. CROMIE.

No. 59.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 17.)

(No. 117.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 8, 1897.

WITH reference to my previous despatches on the subject of the questions pending between the United States' Consul-General, Mr. Burke, and the Moorish Government, I have the honour to report that the United States' Vice-Consul at Laraiche has been again dispatched to the Shereefian Court with, as I understand, strong letters demanding the immediate settlement of Mr. Mathews' claim, and some other monetary claims of United States' citizens and protégés.

Cid Hadj Mohammed Torres informs me that the other matters referred to in my despatch No. 91 of the 19th July have all been disposed of with the exception of Mr. Mathews' claim, which he had declined to admit, as it appeared to him to be unjust, but that in accordance with the Sultan's instructions he had proposed to the United States' Consul-General to refer it to arbitration. Mr. Burke, however, would not entertain this proposal, and had referred the matter to His Shereefian Majesty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 60.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 17.)

(No. 118. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 11, 1897.

THE French Chargé d'Affaires called upon me to request that I should consent to the release of a number of Riffians in prison here in connection with the piratical attack upon the British falucho "Virgen de los Angeles" in 1895, as he considered that their release would greatly facilitate the negotiations for procuring the liberty of the French sailor and other captives at Bocoya.

I informed M. Riffault that, the Italian Minister and the Portuguese Chargé d'Affaires having told me that they had been given to understand that all the captives in the Riff would be released in exchange for one of their brethren in prison here and two at Alhucemas, I have applied to your Lordship for instructions as to whether I should consent to the release of the prisoner at Tangier, who was one of the two men proved to have taken part in the attack upon a British vessel; that with regard to the second prisoner I had not consulted your Lordship, though it seemed just that, as both men were guilty in the same degree, they should receive the same punishment, and, therefore, if one were released, I should be willing to request your Lordship's instructions as to the other; but that as to the rest of the Riffian prisoners to whom he referred, they were not in prison on our demand, and, therefore, it was for the Moorish authorities to decide whether they should be released or not.

I added that though possibly consideration for the unfortunate captives might induce one to agree to their exchange for Riff prisoners, it appeared to me that a very unfortunate precedent would be created thereby, for the Riffs will consider that they can always in future force the release of any of their brethren who may be imprisoned by Moorish or foreign authorities, by pirating a becalmed vessel and seizing some of the crew, and that thus we should be giving a direct encouragement to piracy.

M. Riffault admitted the truth of this argument, but urged that the pressing need at present is to obtain the release of the captives, and that once they are free measures could be concerted to prevent further piracies.

The Spanish Minister, whom I have since seen, informed me that he is strongly opposed to the principle of exchange of prisoners, and thinks it improbable that his Government will agree to it, but that he is urging them to hasten the conclusion of the trial of their Riffian prisoners, so that the guilty may be condemned and the others set at liberty.

M. Ojeda added that he had recently received positive confirmation of the report that had before reached him, that the French Chargé d'Affaires had effected the release of the captain of the French vessel "Prosper Corne" by promising to obtain the liberation of the Riffs in prison at Alhucemas, a promise he was quite unauthorized to make, and that the Shereef who had carried on the negotiations for him does not now dare to return to the Riff. It is on this account that M. Riffault is so anxious to have as many Riffian prisoners set at liberty as possible.

A Portuguese gun-boat has visited the Riff coast to search for the pirated vessel which is still missing. It called at Alhucemas, and brought back the French Consular Agent at Tetuan. The Portuguese Chargé d'Affaires tells me that he hears the Consular Agent informed the Riffs that the French Representative would obtain the release of their brethren.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 61.

Mr. Thornton to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 17.)

(No. 67.)
My Lord, *Lisbon, September* 11, 1897.

AT his Excellency's weekly reception held this day, the Minister of Foreign Affairs gave me a sketch of the circumstances in the case of the "Rosita," of which nothing but an imperfect account had appeared in the press.

These circumstances are no doubt already in your Lordship's possession, so that it may only be necessary to recapitulate them briefly.

The "Rosita," a Portuguese barque, of Faro, being recently becalmed off the Riff coast and caught in an inshore current, was boarded by piratical Moors and her captain and crew taken off with the exception of two men and a boy, who escaped for the time by reason of a breeze suddenly springing up.

Unable, however, to navigate the vessel, they were subsequently carried once more close to the coast and were again attacked. The pirates on this occasion carried off the boy (the captain's brother), and after scuttling the "Rosita" left her in a sinking condition with the two men on board.

By a telegram just received from the Portuguese Consul at the Piræus, the news had, however, come that before the vessel actually sank, the British steam-ship "Craigmore" had passed and taken the men off. Unable to understand their story, and being in doubt as to whether some crime had not been committed, the captain of the "Craigmore" had decided to carry them on to the Piræus, which was his next port of call, and from which they will now be sent home.

Meanwhile, by dint of negotiation, all the Portuguese sailors have been released from captivity with the exception of three, including the captain, whom the pirates refuse to give up unless in exchange for certain of their own tribesmen who are actually in prison at Alhucemas and elsewhere.

One of these men, Senhor de Carvalho went on to say, who is in the prison of Tangier, was taken into custody at the instance of the British Legation, and it would consequently be necessary to obtain the consent of Her Majesty's Government to his surrender. With this object his Excellency had telegraphed yesterday to M. de Soveral, instructing him to approach your Lordship in the matter, and he trusted that it might be found possible

to sanction the proposed delivery of this prisoner. With regard to the remainder, he did not anticipate any difficulty.

The exchange is also to embrace the release by the pirates of three sailors captured from the Italian vessel "Fiducia," which was attacked about a fortnight earlier than the "Rosita."

The Portuguese cruiser "Vasco Dagama" and gun-boat "Mandovi" had both been dispatched to Alhucemas to look for the "Rosita," but the first had already been recalled and the other would shortly follow.

The first necessity, his Excellency finally remarked, is to secure the lives of the captive seamen. After this has been successfully achieved, it will become a matter for serious consideration what measures should be concerted to establish a system of international police in these dangerous waters, where the Sultan of Morocco's rule is completely defied.

In the course of the above observations, Senhor de Carvalho expressed to me his gratitude towards Her Majesty's Government for their sanction of the assumption by Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tangier of the duties of the Portuguese Representative during the absence of the latter on leave. This unexpected incident had naturally compelled Senhor d'Oliveira to defer his departure from his post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. CONWAY THORNTON.

No. 62.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(No. 13.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, September* 22, 1897, 4·50 P.M.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 35 of the 15th instant.

A renewed appeal is being made to Her Majesty's Government by the French Government for their consent to release the Riffian prisoner for purpose of exchange with the Europeans in the hands of the tribe.

The reports received at Paris are to the effect that the negotiations which were undertaken by the Moorish authorities have proved unsuccessful, and that, if the proposal for an exchange is rejected, the safety of the European captives may be imperilled.

Please report whether you have received any confirmatory intelligence.

No. 63.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 36.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September* 23, 1897.

REFERRING to your Lordship's telegram No. 13, the Italian Minister informs me that there is considerable hope of effecting the ransom of the captives without exchanging prisoners.

The Lieutenant-Governor of Tangier is at present at Badis continuing the negotiations, the Italian cruiser having landed him there and returned to Tangier this morning.

No. 64.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 27.)

(No. 119. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 15, 1897.

IN the course of a conversation this morning on the subject of the recent piracies and the captives in the hands of the Riffs, the Spanish Minister informed me that he was strongly of opinion that his Government had been pursuing a mistaken policy in their dealings with the Riff tribes. The Government at Madrid had always had too strict a regard to their Treaty with Morocco, and, from a fear of in any way infringing the Sultan's sovereignty, had persisted in treating with His Majesty instead of dealing

directly with the Riffs. By this course, whilst making enemies of the Riffs, they had embittered their relations with the Moorish Government by having to insist on reparation for frontier incidents which the Sultan was really powerless to prevent.

M. de Ojeda considered that, as the Sultan's authority in the Riff was merely nominal, the Spanish Government should themselves undertake the punishment of the Riff tribes for any aggressions on Spanish territory, without referring to the Moorish Government, and that they should also encourage intercourse with the Riffs, and endeavour to win their friendship as well as their respect. In this manner, M. de Ojeda thinks that cordial relations would gradually be established between themselves and their Riff neighbours, who would eventually become, to all intents and purposes, Spanish.

M. de Ojeda had, he told me, frequently expressed these views to his Government, but they had not been prepared to adopt the policy he proposed; he hoped, however, that in time they would be persuaded by him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT H. WHITE.

No. 65.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 14.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, September* 29, 1897, 5·25 P.M.

I REQUEST you to report how the negotiations referred to in Mr. White's telegram No. 36 of the 23rd instant respecting ransom of captives in hands of the Riffs are progressing. According to information which has reached the French Government, the negotiations have failed.

I have undertaken to consider, in concert with the Portuguese and Italian Governments, the question of giving our consent to the liberation of the Riffian in prison at Tangier with a view to an exchange, should no other means be available for procuring the release of the captives.

No. 66.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 30.)

(No. 38.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September* 30, 1897.

IN answer to your Lordship's telegram No. 14, I have the honour to state that there is some hope of the captives at present detained by the Riffians being liberated on payment of a ransom. The Italian cruiser left here yesterday for Alhucemas with the Italian and the Portuguese Vice-Consuls on board, together with the money for which the Moorish Deputy Governor announces that the Riffians are willing to surrender the captives.

The result of this mission should be known in a few days, and I will then report further to your Lordship.

No. 67.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir E. Monson.

No. 367*.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 30, 1897.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copies of telegraphic correspondence which has passed with Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tangier,* relative to an offer made by the Riffians to surrender the European captives now in their hands in exchange for the liberation of three of the tribe, two of whom are held prisoners by the Spanish authorities at Alhucemas, and are awaiting their trial there, and the third is in prison

* Nos. 52, 53*, 54, 55, 62, and 63.

at Tangier, on account of having been concerned in a piratical attack upon a British vessel.

The Portuguese Minister and the Italian Chargé d'Affaires called on the 13th instant to urge that Her Majesty's Government would give their consent to the liberation of the latter prisoner for the purpose of this arrangement.

It was pointed out to them that such a measure of procedure would form a very bad precedent, and would encourage the Riffians to capture Europeans whenever any of the tribe were under punishment for piratical offences. I had therefore declined for the present to agree to it until it was seen whether the captives could not be ransomed, for which purpose a Moorish official had gone to the coast in an Italian cruiser. At the same time, if these negotiations should prove abortive and there should appear to be danger for the captives, I was prepared to reconsider the question.

The French Minister called on the afternoon of the 22nd instant with a personal message from M. Hanotaux, begging that I would give my favourable consideration to the proposal of exchange. He said that the negotiations undertaken by the Moorish authorities had failed, and that the position of the captives was not free from danger.

A telegram was at once addressed to Mr. White, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tangier, desiring him to report the present state of affairs. He replied that the Italian cruiser which had gone to negotiate for the release of the European prisoners had returned to Tangier, and that the Italian Minister stated that there were great hopes of effecting the ransom of the captives without having recourse to the expedient of an exchange. The Moorish Lieutenant-Governor who was landed on the coast has remained there to continue the negotiations.

I have communicated this information to M. Geoffray, and have suggested that it will be desirable to await the result of the negotiations before considering the alternative course, though I should be prepared to assent to the exchange if no other method could be found for effecting the release of the Europeans.

M. de Soveral has also on a second occasion expressed the anxiety of his Government to obtain the co-operation of Her Majesty's Government in the manner already mentioned, so as to secure the release of a Portuguese seaman who is among the captives. I have replied to him generally in the same sense as to the Minister of France.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 68.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 39.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, October 3, 1897.*

RIFF piracies.

Referring to my telegram No. 38, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that, owing to renewed intervention on the part of the Agent of the French Consular Agent at Tetuan, the negotiations for the ransom of the captives, which were almost completed, have met with fresh obstruction. I am informed that the Agents have intimated to the pirates that the exchange of the prisoners for the captives will be effected if they remain firm; the pirates stating that if they lose hope they will ransom the captives.

The Italian and Portuguese Representatives have agreed to continue the negotiations for ransom through the Deputy Governor of Tangier, who remains on the spot, and have advised their Governments not to bring forward the question of exchange again for the present. If it is necessary to recur to this solution I will immediately inform your Lordship, and the Spanish Minister is also telegraphing to his Government to the same effect.

The Italian Minister informs me confidentially that he regrets to hear that the French Legation does not positively disavow the action of the Agents, and he is of opinion that the Legation desires the negotiations for ransom to fall through in order that the prisoners may be exchanged by means of French mediation, so that French influence in the Riff country may be increased.

No. 69.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 120. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September 23, 1897.*

THE Italian cruiser "Lombardia" having returned this morning from Alhucemas, I called upon the Italian Minister to inquire as to the prospects of the release of the captives in the hands of the Bocoya Riffs.

M. Malmusi informed me that the Captain of the "Lombardia" had not yet been able to land, but that he had received the report of his Vice-Consul, who, together with the Portuguese Vice-Consul at Tetuan—both Jews and natives of Morocco—had accompanied the Lieutenant-Governor of Tangier in the "Lombardia" to Alhucemas, and that this report led him to take a much more hopeful view of the situation than formerly.

The negotiations had hitherto been conducted by the Lieutenant-Governor from Alhucemas, and were on the point of being successful, when a Riffian interposed, and urged that the captives should not be surrendered except in exchange for their fellow-tribesmen in prison at Alhucemas and Tangier, assuring them that those prisoners were on the point of being released, and if they only held out they would secure their liberty. This advice unfortunately was followed, but the negotiators observed that the Riffians were becoming tired of retaining their captives, and were not very hopeful of obtaining an exchange of prisoners. Were it not that some of them have apparently been led to believe that by persisting to refuse to surrender the captives they can force the Powers to release the Riff prisoners, the captives would in all probability have been ransomed ere this.

The Lieutenant-Governor was landed by the "Lombardia" at Badis yesterday on her way back to Tangier, and he will continue his negotiations from that place, where his family enjoy considerable influence; that tribe also is on friendly terms with the Bocoya, and it is therefore hoped that the negotiations can there be conducted under more favourable circumstances than from Alhucemas.

M. Malmusi informs me that the Lieutenant-Governor, as well as the two Vice-Consuls and the Jew, Pinto, who obtained the release of the other captives, entertain great hopes that the release of the remaining captives will be secured by a money payment.

M. Malmusi added that he was reporting in this sense to his Government, and suggesting that, for the present at any rate, there is no necessity for requesting the British and Spanish Governments to release their Riff prisoners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 70.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 122.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September 30, 1897.*

I AM informed that the Spanish Government intend to establish a maritime patrol on the Riff coast by means of two torpedo destroyers, the "Destructor" and the "Furor," who will be employed in running between Tangier and the Chaffarine Islands, calling at the intermediate Spanish possessions *en route*. One of these vessels arrived at Tangier yesterday, and proceeded on her voyage after a stay of a few hours.

The French cruiser "Cosmao" is at present in Tangier Bay, having been placed at the disposal of the French Legation presumably in connection with the question of the Riff piracies.

The German training-ship "Nixe" recently arrived at Tangier, and has now proceeded to visit some ports on the western coast of Morocco. The United States' flag-ship "San Francisco" was also here a few days ago, and it is said that she will return shortly in company with other United States' men-of-war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 71.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 7.)

(No. 40.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, October* 7, 1897.

WITH reference to Riff piracy case, notes have been addressed by Sultan's deputy here to Spanish Minister and myself, asking us to release prisoners in exchange for captives. In reply, we simply acknowledge receipt, and say we have referred matter to our Governments. In view of the position of affairs, this step on part of Sultan's deputy was unexpected. The Spanish Minister and myself are of opinion that the efforts for solution by ransom should not yet be abandoned, and the Italian and Portuguese Representatives are awaiting further reports from their cruisers, who, with their Vice-Consuls, are both on the spot.

The French Consular Agent has returned here on board French cruiser.

No. 72.

Mr. Thornton to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 8.)

(No. 76.)
My Lord, *Lisbon, October* 2, 1897.

BEING aware that M. de Soveral has been instructed by his Government to keep your Lordship fully acquainted with the progress made towards the release of the Portuguese and other sailors now in the hands of the Riff pirates, I have not deemed it necessary to report upon the subject since the date of my despatch No. 67 of the 11th ultimo, the information obtainable in the absence of the Minister of Foreign Affairs being very vague.

On his return to Lisbon to-day, M. de Carvalho requested me to convey to your Lordship the expression of his very sincere gratitude for the concession made by your Lordship in undertaking to order the surrender, if that became indispensable, of the individual now in prison at Tangier, who was taken into custody at the request of Her Majesty's Representative, and whose delivery up to them is demanded by the pirates.

His Excellency went on to say that, in recognition of the obligation imposed by your Lordship's kindness, he was naturally averse to taking advantage of it, saving in the very last resort. He was happy to be able to add that news received during the past few days gave some hope that the pirates would after all not insist upon their original conditions, but would accept a money ransom instead. They had, in fact, given Senhor Isaac Pinto, the Confidential Portuguese Agent on the spot, to understand that they were reconsidering the point.

Meanwhile, in view of the fact that France, Italy, and Spain were each represented in Moorish waters by a ship of war, the Portuguese Government could not do otherwise than dispatch one of their vessels to join the concert. The new iron-clad cruiser "Adamastor" had accordingly received orders to repair thither from the Tagus, and would probably have arrived off Tangier this day.

M. de Carvalho concluded with the repetition of his previous observation, viz., that when once the six men now in the hands of these pirates shall have been safely recovered, it will be necessary to concert plans to prevent the recurrence of such intolerable incidents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. CONWAY THORNTON.

No. 73.

Mr. J. W. H. Jochimsen to Foreign Office.—(*Received October* 8.)

Sir, 26, *Great St. Helen's, London, October* 7, 1897.

REFERRING to your letter of the 20th August (signed by Mr. Villiers), I take the liberty to inquire whether it would not be possible to alter the Rules there laid down for trading with the Shingiti territory so far as to make trading practicable, because, if my information is correct, the Rules referred to can only have the effect of driving the trade under another flag, as they are prohibitory to English subjects.

It would be very desirable to appoint a time to see the concessionnaire (Mr. M. Saber) and myself. There are several points which have possibly escaped the attention of Her Majesty's Government. On the charts this coast is represented as consisting of open roadsteads, but there exists an inland basin capable to be converted into a port affording shelter to a large fleet. If Her Majesty's Government can obtain from the Moorish Government such concession as will permit an English Company to take possession, it may prevent this port from being acquired by another Power. A fortified harbour in a salubrious country in such a position may become very disastrous to British trade in time of war.

My friends, Messrs. John M. Lennard Sons (Limited), of Middlesborough-on-Tees, have been completely frightened off by your statement, but if you will grant an interview promptly the business may still be secured for England. However, no time must be lost, because Mr. Saber has received instructions that, if he has not completed his arrangements a fortnight hence he must break off all negotiations, as the Sheikhs require free hands to come to terms with others, presumably the French, who have already offered them terms on a preceding occasion.

There is another point: the noble Marquess would be very sorry to make me sacrifice a commission for which I have worked very hard, when the interest of the State is perhaps better served by a compromise which leaves the same intact.

I am, &c.
(Signed) J. W. H. JOCHIMSEN.

No. 74.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 8.)

(No. 41)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, October* 8, 1897.

WITH reference to Riff piracy case, the Portuguese and Italian Vice-Consuls have returned here on board Portuguese cruiser, bearing with them letters from captives. The reports are all unanimous in stating that the sole obstacle to release by ransom is due to the action of the French Agent. The French Chargé d'Affaires will now be requested by the Italian and Portuguese Representatives to take steps to remove opposition to ransom.

No. 75.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 9.)

(No. 42.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, October* 9, 1897.

REFERRING to my telegram No. 41, the Italian and Portuguese Representatives have received a promise from the French Chargé d'Affaires that he would telegraph to his Government for instructions with regard to assisting in the negotiations for ransom of captives.

The French cruiser left Tangier unexpectedly last night, the object of her journey being unknown; but, as she was sighted off Alhucemas this morning, it is believed that she has gone to the Riff coast.

No. 76.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 9.)

(No. 43.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, October* 9, 1897.

WITH reference to the Globe Venture Syndicate, reports of a private nature from the South state that there exists among some Süs tribes an impression that the Company's agent is coming out shortly with arms and ammunition.

It is reported that these tribes, if thus supported, would be ready to rise against the authority of the Sultan.

The steamer, it is said, would leave from one of the Belgian ports. I, moreover, believe the Company's agent was in Belgium recently.

No. 77.

Sir H. MacDonell to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 6.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Lisbon, October 9, 1897.*

THE following is substance of a telegram from Officer Commanding Portuguese cruiser at Tangier to Portuguese Minister for Foreign Affairs:—

"Have just returned from the Riff coast with the Vice-Consuls of Italy and Portugal. Some disposition to accept ransom was at first shown by pirates, but they subsequently drew back, at the instigation, it is believed, of local French Consular Agents. The Italian and Portuguese Representatives were accordingly advised by their British and Spanish colleagues at Tangier to endeavour to induce the French Minister to send telegraphic instructions to French Agents to desist from this line of conduct, but he refused to do so before referring the matter to his Government."

The very unfortunate effect which the attitude of the French Agents is likely to produce at [? Tangier and] at Lisbon, and the consequent hampering of the negotiations, has been pointed out by the Minister for Foreign Affairs to the French Chargé d'Affaires here.

No. 78.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury—(Received October 11.)

(No. 124.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October 4, 1897.*

I REGRET to report that the negotiations for the ransom of the captives in the hands of the Riff pirates have suffered a check at a moment when they appeared to be on the point of being satisfactorily concluded. From a report received by the Italian Minister, through the Captain of the Italian cruiser "Lombardia," it appears that a certain Dadi, a French Riff protégé, and an intimate friend and emissary of the French Consular Agent at Tetuan, arrived at the place where the Deputy Governor was treating with the Riffians, and, exhibiting letters from the Consular Agent and from the Shereef of Wazzan, urged the Riffs to reject the proposals for a ransom, and remain firm in their demands for the liberation of the prisoners at Alhucemas and Tangier. Dadi announced that he had no doubt that these demands would be conceded, and, in proof of the sincerity of his conviction, gave himself as a hostage to the Riffs, with whom, I am told, he has been for long on terms of friendly intimacy.

The Riffians, in consequence of those declarations, suspended further negotiations, and informed the Deputy Governor that should what they termed the "French promises" not be realized in a few days, they would then be ready to surrender the captives on payment of a ransom.

In these circumstances, both the Italian and Portuguese Representatives here have decided to continue negotiations, and are suggesting to their Governments to desist for the present from discussing the question of the exchange of prisoners for captives; as, should the Riffians see that the promises made by Dadi, and presumably also contained in the letters from the Shereef of Wazzan and the French Consular Agent, are not likely to be accomplished, they will in all probability accept the ransom and liberate the captives.

The intervention of Dadi has been most unfortunate, and this is the second occasion on which he has succeeded in hampering the negotiations. It is also feared that the unexpected arrival at Alhucemas of the French cruiser "Cosmao," with the French Consular Agent at Tetuan on board, may lead the Riffs to believe that the action of Dadi receives official support.

The Portuguese cruiser "Adamastor" has arrived here, but, I believe, will not proceed to the Riff coast for the moment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 79.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 125. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October 4, 1897.*

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch, the Italian Minister, M. de Malmusi, expressed to me his concern at the untoward intervention of French Agents in the negotiations for the release of the captives, and he feared that political objects were being introduced into a question which should be treated entirely apart from such aims. M. de Malmusi told me that he had communicated to M. Riffault, the French Chargé d'Affaires, the report which he had received as to the interference of French Agents in the negotiations, and their active encouragement to the Riffs to stand out for the exchange of their prisoners—a solution to which resort should only be had as a last resource, and simply in order to save the lives of the captives. M. de Malmusi explained to M. Riffault that the Riffs had expressed their readiness to ransom the captives, but have been deterred from doing so by the promises of an exchange which had been made to them, doubtless without the authority of the French Legation. He therefore requested M. Riffault to send categorical instructions to the French Consular Agent to explain to the Riffians that the promises had been made without authority, and that any hopes which they might entertain as to an exchange of prisoners were illusory. M. Riffault demurred to sending such instructions, as he said he had received no direct information that any such promises as those to which M. de Malmusi had referred had been made; but on M. de Malmusi stating that his information was official, and also borne out by the fact of Dadi having remained in the hands of the Riffians as security for the realization of these engagements, M. Riffault at length consented to send a telegram to the Commandant of the "Cosmao," to clear up what he termed a misunderstanding. The telegram was in vague terms, and gave no precise instructions, and will, M. de Malmusi fears, have little effect.

He also drew M. Riffault's attention to the presence of the "Cosmao" on the Riff coast, which he feared might give rise to misunderstandings; and he believed that the vessel would shortly be recalled to Tangier.

M. de Malmusi is of opinion that the French Legation is seeking for an opportunity of strengthening their position among the Riff tribes—a position which of late they have been at some pains to establish. Last year a brother of the Shereef of Wazzan made a lengthened tour through the Riff district; and I am told that the French Consular Agent at Tetuan, an Algerian, is very active in maintaining constant and friendly relations with the Riff. If, then, the exchange of prisoners is eventually effected the French influence will be considerably enhanced, as this solution will be attributed to their efforts. If it were a satisfactory solution, there would perhaps be no harm in allowing the credit of it to be secured by the French Legation; but I venture to think that it is an extremely unsatisfactory solution from many points of view, and should only be adopted in the event of every other mode of releasing the captives having completely failed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 80.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 44.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, October 12, 1897.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 42, the French Agent has been recalled from Riff district by the French Chargé d'Affaires, who has been instructed to co-operate with Portuguese and Italian Representatives in the negotiations for ransom of captives. The Riffs, on the departure of French Agent, proceeded to enter into negotiations with Commander of Italian cruiser for ransom. The outlook is at present more hopeful.

No. 81.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 13.)

(No. 197.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, October* 13, 1897, 6·45 P.M.

INSTRUCTIONS have been given, as I am told by M. Hanotaux, to the French Representative in Morocco to act in concert with his colleagues in the matter of the Riff pirates as much as possible. His Excellency, however, says that he fears that the ransom project will meet with no success; and he adds that, personally, the disastrous effects produced on barbarian or semi-civilized peoples, by the system of ransom, as has been shown by experience, have made him a strong opponent of the ransom system. But these views have never been communicated by M. Hanotaux to the French Representative at Tangier either officially or otherwise.

No. 82.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 104.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 13, 1897.

I TRANSMIT to you the accompanying copies of correspondence which has passed with M. Jochimsen in regard to the question of opening up British trade relations with the tribes on the North-west Coast of Africa between Cape Juby and Cape Bojador.*

I shall be glad to be furnished with your observations upon Mr. Jochimsen's letter of the 7th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 83.

Foreign Office to M. J. W. H. Jochimsen.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 13, 1897.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, inquiring whether it would not be possible to alter the conditions on which British subjects may trade on the North-west Coast of Africa between Cape Juby and Cape Bojador.

In reply, I am to inform you that a copy of your letter will be sent to Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier for his observations, but that Lord Salisbury can hold out no hope of any modification of the Agreement of 1895 with the Moorish Government.

I am to add that his Lordship considers that no useful purpose would be served by an interview.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 84.

Mr. J. W. H. Jochimsen to Foreign Office.—(*Received October* 15.)

Sir, 26, *Great St. Helen's, London, October* 14, 1897.

I HAVE received your letter of the 13th instant.

Whether any useful purpose can be served by an interview all depends upon the view taken of the matter. To judge the French by their action, they appear to have no idea of abiding by the arrangement entered into between Her Majesty's and the Moorish Governments, and as it will be difficult, if not impossible, without great friction, to make them relinquish their hold, once they have obtained a footing through a Treaty with the Sheikhs, I feel convinced it will be far better to meet them with a *fait accompli*.

* Nos. 27, 33, 73, and 83.

The concessionnaire will not now call at the Foreign Office if invited, but he is still prepared to conclude the business, subject to being held harmless if the expedition arrives too late.

If the noble Marquess, after having had the whole case laid before him, is desirous of adopting my suggestions, it will be an easy matter for him to get the transaction carried into effect without compromising Her Majesty's Government.

I do not know of any law which enables Her Majesty's Government to stop any British subject from dispatching a vessel to a named port for orders; and should the vessel subsequently discharge and load on the coast in question, I do not know what penalty Her Majesty's Government could inflict, as the Act under which this can be done does not appear to be known in the City.

If a vessel did go out Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier might inform the Moorish Government thereof, and I have no doubt that gentleman would be able to arrange the business to the satisfaction of everybody.

The case is so urgent, that a decision will come too late if left to correspondence. Would Sir Thomas Sanderson see me, and have the kindness to go through the case, so as to be able to submit anything worthy of attention to the noble Marquess?

I am, &c.
(Signed) J. W. H. JOCHIMSEN.

No. 85.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir H. D. Wolff.

(No. 33.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, October* 15, 1897.

RIFF piracy.

With reference to your telegram No. 166 of the 13th instant, Her Majesty's Government are willing to consider the question of an exchange, in concert with the Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese Governments, if the negotiations for the ransom of the Europeans which are now proceeding between the Commander of the Italian cruiser and the Riffs should fail to result in their release.

You may inform the Minister of Foreign Affairs of this, and that, according to a telegram from Sir A. Nicolson of the 12th instant, the aspect of the negotiations is more favourable.

No. 86.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 16.)

(No. 130.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 9, 1897.

THE Portuguese cruiser "Adamaster" returned here yesterday from the Riff coast, bringing the Italian and Portuguese Vice-Consuls, and some letters from the captives. From these different sources, as well as from the reports of the Captains of the Italian and Portuguese cruisers, it would appear that the guardians of the captives are quite ready to release them, were it not that the individual Dadi, to whom I referred in a preceding despatch, assures them that very shortly they will receive, in exchange, their brethren, who are in detention at Tangier and Alhucemas. This Dadi is reported to receive his instructions from Allal, the French Consular Agent, who is at present here; and as the reports were clear and positive that the sole obstacle to the acceptance of the ransom lay in the hopes held out by Dadi, the Italian and Portuguese Representatives decided to address themselves to the French Chargé d'Affaires, and request him to call Dadi to Tangier, and to instruct Allal to cease from making any communications, direct or indirect, to the piratical tribe.

M. Riffault demurred to taking the steps suggested, but finally consented to telegraph to his Government, and to request instructions as to whether he should associate himself with the Portuguese and Italian Representatives in their endeavours to procure the release of the captives by means of ransom.

I should wish to correct a slight misstatement I made in a previous despatch. Dadi is a resident in the Bocoya district, and therefore did not give himself as security

for the fulfilment of his promise to obtain the exchange of the prisoners. He is a French protégé, and bears the title of interpreter to the French Vice-Consulate at Tetuan.

There can, I think, be now little doubt that the ransom would have been already effected and the captives liberated, had not the French Agents intervened in acontrary sense. That there is no rooted objection to ransom in the minds of the Riffs is proved by the fact that three of the Portuguese captives have already been freed—two unconditionally, and one on payment of ransom. And that the Riffians are still disposed to effect the ransom of those remaining is, I think, borne out by the statements of the Deputy Governor, the Commandants of the Italian and Portuguese cruisers, the two Vice-Consuls, as well as from other unofficial sources. Moreover, and this perhaps is the more conclusive, the captive Portuguese Captain, who has no communication but with his captors, has written some letters to his Legation, saying that on more than one occasion they were informed their liberation was imminent, but that it was prevented at the last moment by other influences.

The French cruiser "Cosmao" left here unexpectedly last night; and the Italian Minister informs me that a telegram was received this morning, stating that she had been sighted off Alhucemas. The object of her journey is unknown.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 87.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 646.)
My Lord, *Paris, October 14, 1897.*

I SPOKE yesterday to M. Hanotaux upon the Riff piracy question, saying that I regretted that there seemed to be a divergence of views between the French Representative at Tangier and his colleagues in regard to it.

His Excellency said that although he held very strong personal views on the principle involved, he had telegraphed to his Agent at Tangier to act as much as possible in concert with the other Representatives in this matter.

M. Hanotaux stated that his own opinion was that the system of ransom was bad in principle and in result. Wherever it had been tried it had been found to encourage brigandage and piracy; and this had been the case in dealing both with absolute barbarian and with semi-civilized peoples.

In the present instance, the French Representative is convinced that it will fail to obtain the end desired; but as the Agents of the other Powers do not agree to this, orders had been sent to him to act in conformity with the instructions which they received from their Governments.

M. Hanotaux asked me to state to your Lordship that he cannot too strongly urge upon Her Majesty's Government the expediency of discountenancing upon every possible occasion the encouragement to piracy and brigandage involved in the system of ransom.

I observed that in the present instance we were not interested except in a secondary degree, and that as we did not believe that the lives of the captives are really in danger, we could not but feel strongly the inexpediency of liberating them by facilitating the escape from punishment of miscreants who richly deserve it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 88.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 107.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 20, 1897.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 43 of the 9th instant, I transmit to you the accompanying copy of a letter which I have caused to be addressed to the Globe Venture Syndicate,* warning them that if they persist in sending Major Spilsbury

* No. 89.

to the Sûs district they must not look to Her Majesty's Government to protect or relieve them or their agent from the consequences of action taken against the wishes of the Moorish Government, and in defiance of the various warnings which have been given to Major Spilsbury.

You are authorized to communicate the inclosed letter to the Moorish Government, and to take such further steps as you may consider desirable with a view to make it publicly known that Her Majesty's Government will not countenance or support the enterprise in which the agent of the Globe Venture Syndicate is engaged unless the sanction of the Moorish Government is first obtained.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 89.

Foreign Office to Globe Venture Syndicate.

Gentlemen, *Foreign Office, October 20, 1897.*

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to call your serious attention to the following summary of facts which have come to his knowledge in regard to a commercial enterprise in which the Globe Venture Syndicate appear to be engaged.

Towards the end of last year Her Majesty's Government were informed by Sir Arthur Nicolson, their Representative in Morocco, that the Spanish and local Tangier press were publishing news respecting the formation of an English Syndicate which professed to have made Agreements with certain Chiefs under which the had obtained a trading and mining monopoly in the Sus district.

A rumour of these alleged proceedings having also reached the Moorish Government, Sir A. Nicolson received from the Grand Vizier an official notification that the inhabitants of the regions in question were under the protection and guardianship of the Government of Morocco, and that they had, therefore, no authority to make any such Agreements as those reported without the sanction, which, in the present case, had not been granted; so that any British subject proceeding to open trade with the Chiefs on the Morocco coast above Wad Nun without having previously obtained the Sultan's permission would do so at his own risk, that he would be liable to be arrested and handed over to the British Consular authorities at Mogador if he should attempt to land merchandize in the district of Sus, and that his goods would be seized as contraband.

On the 20th March last Major Spilsbury, the agent of the Globe Venture Syndicate, called on Sir A. Nicolson at Tangier, and the letter of protest and warning which had been received at the Legation from the Grand Vizier was read to him; and on the position of affairs being clearly laid before him, he was understood to agree not to penetrate into the Sus without the permission of the Moorish Government.

Major Spilsbury appears to have then proceeded to the Moorish Court; but his visit there being unsuccessful, and a report having reached Her Majesty's Legation that is was possible that he might endeavour to enter the Sus by way of Mogador, a second warning was conveyed to him through the British Consular officer at that port.

A communication having subsequently been received from Major Spilsbury from the Canary Islands, the British Consular officer at Las Palmas was instructed, by telegraph, to warn him that unless he first obtained the permission of the Moorish Government and the concurrence of Her Majesty's Legation at Tangier to his intended visit to the Sus, he would do so at his own risk, and must not expect any support or assistance.

The receipt of both of the above warning communications was acknowledged by Major Spilsbury, from Mogador and from Las Palmas; and he appears to have then returned to this country.

It is assumed that Major Spilsbury has duly communicated to the Syndicate the attitude of the Moorish Government in the matter, and the various warnings of which he has been the recipient since the early part of this year; and the whole state of the case has been fully explained to Sir Edward Thornton, one of the Directors of the Syndicate. Lord Salisbury regrets, however, to learn that, notwithstanding the repeated representations which have been made as to the risk which would be incurred by Major Spilsbury if he ventures to enter the Sus district of Morocco on a trading expedition witnout the Sultan's permission, the Syndicate have, after deliberation, decided to allow their agent to accept the responsibility thus thrown upon him, and that they do not feel justified in abandoning the trading expedition which the Syndicate was formed to carry out.

In these circumstances, Lord Salisbury has no alternative but to repeat directly to the Syndicate, in a formal way, the warnings which have been given to Major Spilsbury, and to state that the Syndicate must not look to Her Majesty's Government to protect or relieve them or their agent from the consequences of action taken against the wishes of the Moorish Government and in defiance of those warnings.

A copy of this letter will be forwarded to Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier for communication to the Moorish Government, and for such steps as he may consider desirable with a view to make it publicly known that Her Majesty's Government will not countenance or support the enterprise in which the agent of the Globe Venture Syndicate is engaged, until that enterprise has received the sanction of the Moorish Government.

I am to request that you will forward a copy of this letter to Major Spilsbury.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. H. VILLIERS.

No. 90.

Foreign Office to Mr. J. W. H. Jochimsen.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 20, 1897.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your further letter of the 14th instant in regard to your proposed commercial operations on the coast between Capes Juby and Bojador, and renewing your request for an interview.

I am to inform you in reply that, if you will call at this Office, I shall be ready to receive any additional fact which you may wish to lay before Lord Salisbury; but I am to repeat that his Lordship cannot sanction or support any attempts on the part of British subjects to trade with the tribes in the district in question except with the permission of the Sultan of Morocco.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 91.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 129.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 8, 1897.

MR. REID, Acting British Vice-Consul at Saffi, has informed me that, in accordance with the instructions contained in the Circular addressed by me to British Consular officers, as reported in my despatch No. 57 of the 3rd March, he made careful inquiry, and discovered that two semsars of British subjects held unfreed slaves, but that they were at once manumitted by his direction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 92.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 131.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 9, 1897.

MR. CONSUL MACLEAN has forwarded to me a private letter which he has received from Mr. Johnston, British Vice-Consul at Mogador, in which the latter reports as follows:—

"There is a general impression in and near Assaka that Major Spilsbury is very shortly coming back there, with supplies of arms, &c., and I am assured by a fairly well-informed man from near that place that a combination of seven tribes, south of, and including part of, Ait Baamran, has been formed with the view of resisting the Sultan's force under Kaïd El Guilooly, provided 'the Christian' brings them substantial support in the shape of guns, ammunition, &c."

Mr. Johnston adds that Mr. Ratto, Major Spilsbury's Representative at Mogador, has hinted that a small steamer is being dispatched from a Belgian port, with the object of calling at Ait Baamran.

Mr. Maclean, in forwarding the letter from Mr. Johnston, observes that many tribes in the Sûs would be glad to be independent of the Sultan's authority, if it were possible; but adds that the Government has many spies throughout the Sûs districts, and must be well informed of what is being prepared.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 93.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 132.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 13, 1897.

THE requests which were addressed to the French Chargé d'Affaires by the Italian and Portuguese Representatives for the recall of the French protégé in the Riff district were successful in their results, and the individual in question is now in Tangier. M. Riffault also informed his colleagues that he had received instructions to cooperate with them in endeavouring to procure the ransom of the captives.

On the withdrawal of the French protégé, Alush, the Riffian, who has in detention the three Portuguese captives, had an interview with the Captain of the Italian cruiser, and expressed his readiness to surrender those in his charge. He, at the same time, advised that an interview should be held with a certain Bughaba, who is guardian of the other three captives, and also recommended that after that interview the cruiser should absent herself for a few days, to allow time for him to explain, without the presence of a man-of-war, the situation to his tribe, and procure their assent to the ransom.

The interview with Bughaba took place on the 11th instant, and was not very satisfactory, as this individual maintained his claim for the exchange of prisoners. It is, however, considered by those who are acquainted with the Riffians, that these objections on the part of Bughaba to a ransom will not prove insuperable; and the Italian cruiser has left for Gibraltar, in order to give Alush an opportunity of arranging matters with his compatriots.

The French Consular Agent was dispatched in the "Cosmao" to fetch the French protégé from the Riff district, and as he was aware that the captives had written letters stating that the ransom negotiations had been hampered by his action, he took the opportunity of obtaining fresh letters from them to the effect that an exchange of prisoners was the only possible solution. The Italian Commanding Officer telegraphed to his Minister that these letters were obtained by compulsion, and that no attention should be paid to them; and as he is coming to Tangier to-morrow he will doubtless give further details on the subject.

The Italian Minister informed me to-day that he had received a visit from the Adjutant of the Deputy-Governor who had come to Tangier from the Riff Coast to report to the Sultan's Deputy. This officer confirmed all the reports which had been received by the Italian and Portuguese Representatives. He further said that Muley Amrani, an uncle of the Sultan, was proceeding from Oojda, on the Algerian frontier, with a large force to the Riff district; and that he had instructions to demand the release of the captives under threats of condign punishment.

Some little time will probably elapse before the surrender of the captives actually takes place; but matters certainly are now in a more favourable position than they previously were.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 94.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 23.)

(No. 265. Secret and Confidential.)

My Lord, *Madrid, October* 11, 1897.

I HAVE on various occasions ventured to call the attention of Her Majesty's Government to the possibility of Germany having some views in connection with Morocco.

I understand from generally well-informed conversation that the activity of that Power in Morocco is daily on the increase. Morocco is now the subject of constant discussion in the Spanish press, and I beg to call your Lordship's attention to the following paragraphs translated from the "Pais" of to-day. After reproducing some telegrams from France on the subject of Morocco, that journal goes on to say:—

"The same German periodicals recognize that the duty of carrying out an intervention belongs to Spain, but at present they declare us incapable of effecting it.

"This is nothing more than a skilful subterfuge for Germany to assume to imitate in Morocco the conduct of England in Egypt."

The "Pais," the Republican organ, has for some time advocated the alliance of Spain with France and Russia, and the views attributed to Germany now furnish a text for advocating such an understanding.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 95.

Sir G. Bonham to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 23.)

(No. 171.)

My Lord, *Rome, October* 18, 1897.

IN alluding to the difficulties which have lately arisen with regard to the release of captives taken by pirates on the Riff Coast, the Marquess Visconti Venosta spoke somewhat strongly at my last interview with him of the frequency with which these cases occur.

His Excellency duly recognized your Lordship's willingness to acquiesce in the exchange of these captives for prisoners in the hands of Spain and Great Britain in the event of its being impossible to do so by means of ransom, saying that it was Spain who positively declined the proposal to exchange them.

He stated that it was in consequence of his own representations at Paris that the French Consular Agent had been withdrawn, as he had been endeavouring to exercise political influence in the country.

He further stated that, in his opinion, Spain should exercise a sort of maritime police on the coast which would not be difficult, as the pirates can never attack any vessels except sailing-vessels, and only during a dead calm. Unless some such measure was adopted their depredations might increase until they assumed proportions approaching those formerly exercised by the pirates of Algiers.

As his Excellency did not allude to the international character which questions connected with Morocco are liable to assume I did not think it advisable to do so.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. F. BONHAM.

No. 96.

Mr. F. W. H. Jochimsen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 23.)

My Lord, 26, *Great St. Helen's, London, October* 20, 1897.

IN sequence to the correspondence with the Foreign Office respecting the trading with the country between Cape Juby and Cape Bojador, I called yesterday on Sir Thomas Sanderson, who informed me that nothing could be done. However, his reasons did not convince me, hence I appeal to your Lordship personally. If that is wrong I hope you will pardon me and blame my nationality—because we Danes are tenacious to a fault.

Mr. Saber, the concessionnaire, tells me:—

That he is a son-in-law of one of the Sheikhs and has been residing in that country for seventeen years.

That the Sheikhs are genuinely desirous of opening up direct trade with England, for which purpose they have granted him the concession referred to.

That the country is very rich in nitrate, guano, iron, and copper, and affords a big field for the interchange of merchandize.

That the French attempted some time ago to obtain leave to construct a railway through the country and to obtain other advantages.

That the Sheikhs were willing to grant such permission, but that they withheld it at the instigation of Mr. Saber, who was more disposed to enter into relation with England.

That he has received a letter from the Sheikhs from which it appears they are again treating with some one.

That the French are very lavish in the expenditure of money to neighbouring Sheikhs.

That no attempt to trade with the country has been made with the consent of the Sheikhs, any attempt without such consent would naturally be resented and the parties shown off.

That the Sheikhs are on friendly terms with the Sultan of Morocco, who has never claimed any suzerainty over the country; a claim which, if made, would be resented and its enforcement resisted by arms.

That in such resistance the Sheikhs would have the support of all the other Sheikhs further inland, who would probably raise a force too big for the Sultan to cope with.

That there is a natural basin on that coast which may be converted into a first class port.

I have inquired about Mr. Saber and been told that his identity and integrity are beyond doubt.

If all this information is false, nothing more need be said, if, on the other hand, it is true, or may be true, something should be done as the question involves momentous issues for England. Perhaps I am naturally too pessimistic, but it will do no harm to err on the side of safety. I have my own ideas as to the damage a French naval port might do to England in case of war. In my opinion, England has not to fear the destruction of naval or mercantile ships, but the effect that one or more hostile cruisers being at large may have on her customers. If it frightens these into giving their orders to neutrals no amount of success will compensate for the loss of customers who may never return. Of course the port might be watched, but that would put an extra strain on the British fleet, and who knows what the calls on that fleet may be? Both, during the Crimean war and the war of secession in America, the relations with the United States became unpleasantly strained, and since then the Americans have become much more bellicose, so that it is not wise to regard a rupture as an impossibility. When I, therefore, advise that something should be done to avoid the necessity of having another port to watch, I can surely not be called an alarmist, especially as that "something" involves so little trouble and costs nothing.

If your Lordship should think it right to act, all that it will be necessary to do is to tell some rich yacht owner that there may be a fortune in store for him, if he will take the concessionnaire with him in his yacht to those ports and investigate the business. It will be a pleasant diversion for the yacht owner, and the business must then speak for itself. If, as good as represented, the money will be forthcoming.

It ought to cause no trouble to square matters with the Moorish Government, an explanation that it is to keep out the French, or that the prime mover in the business is a foreigner will pacify them, as the Sultan really does not believe he will be able to exercise sufficient control in that country to levy duties.

The Arrangement of 1895 cannot be upheld, it goes too far or not far enough. Under it the British subject must pay duty to the Sultan, but the foreigner who has the sanction of the Sheikhs is under no such obligation. That means prohibition to the British trader, because to pay 10 per cent. duty where a competitor pays nothing will kill any trade.

I am, &c.

(Signed) F. W. H. JOCHIMSEN.

No. 97.

Sir H. MacDonell to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 8.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Lisbon, October 25, 1897.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 6, Confidential:

Portuguese Minister at Madrid has telegraphed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs for his permission to sign, with the Italian and French Ministers at that Court, a joint note addressed to the Government of Spain, asking them to agree to an exchange of prisoners. The Spanish Government seem to be willing to assent to this course.

The Portuguese Minister for Foreign Affairs, who believes that the suggestion was made by the Ambassador of France, has replied that he is unable to adopt the Italian and French Ministers' proposal, while the negotiations are pending for a ransom, without your Lordship being first consulted.

Should the Italian and French Governments proceed to act independently, and should they succeed in obtaining, by exchange, the liberation of their prisoners, his Excellency fears that the negotiations for the ransom of the Portuguese prisoners will be prejudiced thereby.

According to the French Ambassador at the Spanish Court, there has been a failure of the negotiations for the ransom.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs kindly requests your Lordship to be so good as to send your reply at your earliest convenience.

No. 98.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir H. MacDonell.

(No. 10.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, October 26, 1897, 11 P.M.*

NO news has reached us of the alleged failure of negotiations for ransom of the prisoners alluded to in your telegram No. 8; and we are of opinion that any offer for an exchange would be undesirable while the negotiations are still pending.

I will let you know as soon as I receive any further report on the subject from Tangier.

No. 99.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 45.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, October 27, 1897.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 16 and 17, negotiations for ransom of captives are to be reopened by Portuguese Agent, who leaves to-day for Riff country. He is in hopes of obtaining a definite answer about a week hence, and has with him letters from Sultan's Deputy here informing the Riffs that they should not rely on the promises made to them in regard to exchange of prisoners, and, at the same time, urging them to surrender the captives. A week ago Portuguese and Italian Representatives, *vide* my despatch No. 138, which is on its way to your Lordship, addressed a letter to the Grand Vizier, asking that Sultan should send a personage of high position to Riff country for the purpose of demanding release of captives. A reply is shortly to be expected. It is reported that the French captive is ill, but the pirates declined to hand him over to the French cruiser, which has just come back from the coast.

No. 100.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 109.)
Sir *Foreign Office, October 27, 1897.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 104 of the 13th instant, I transmit to you, for your observations, the acccompanying copy of a further letter from Mr. Jochimsen in regard to the question of opening up British trade relations with the tribes on the north-west coast of Morocco, between Cape Juby and Cape Bojador.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 101.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 110.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 27, 1897.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 129 of the 8th instant, reporting that, in accordance with your instructions to Her Majesty's Consular officers in Morocco, Mr. Reid, the Acting British Vice-Consul at Saffi, has caused the manumission of unfreed slaves held by two semsars of British subjects.

I have to express to you the satisfaction with which I have received this information.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 102.

Foreign Office to Mr. Jochimsen.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 27, 1897.*

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th instant, in regard to the question of opening up British trade relations with the tribes on the north-west coast of Africa, between Cape Juby and Cape Bojador.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 103.

Mr. J. W. H. Jochimsen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)

My Lord, 26, *Great St. Helen's, London, October 26, 1897.*

IT is the extreme urgency of the case which induces me to refer to my letter of the 20th instant, to which I have received no reply. The concessionnaire, Mr. Saber, returns viâ Morocco this week or next, so that if anything is to be done, it must be done promptly.

When I consider that Her Majesty's Government has no Representative in the territory under discussion, and that all is second-hand information, which is necessarily tinged by self-interest in one direction or other, I cannot help thinking that it is unwise to rely on that information to the exclusion to all that is said by Mr. Saber, who is in possession of all the facts, and who has no interest to deceive, as he would not benefit in the slightest degree if his representations were false. He has never asked for any goods or money to be intrusted to him, all goes in charge of a supercargo.

Even such information as the Foreign Office possesses is not taken at its true value. Assuming that Sir Thomas Sanderson is right, that attempts at trading with this territory have been made, it makes all the difference whether some unauthorized

* No. 96.

person sends a vessel to barter along the coast or whether some one with the sanction of the Sheikhs is about to organize a trade with properly established connections in the interior. Anything in the latter shape has never been attempted, and to refer to the former when the latter is under discussion is most misleading.

The more I think over it, the more I am convinced that England should take steps to prevent the French from securing a naval port in a position where she can do an infinity of harm to English commerce in war time, when perhaps the Suez route is not available. We can none of us look into the future, but when we regard the changes that have taken place during the last ten years in the grouping of the European Powers, it will not do for English statesmen to ignore that Italy's policy has always been a mercenary one, linking herself with the strongest. A leaning on England is all very fine with Germany and Austria at her back, but where is the Italian statesman mad enough to commit his country to act with England against two military Powers who may overrun the country from one end to another, when Germany and Austria hold aloof? And who will guarantee that in case of war France and Russia may not force the hands of Italy? Depend upon it, when forced to declare herself under such circumstances, she will go against England. Now I have no doubt the British fleet would get the better of the allied forces, but there would be very little margin to spare, so that it would be preferable to make a sacrifice now and thereby avert the necessity of weakening the main fleet to watch an outlying port.

Your Lordship will, I have no doubt, always be able to avoid a collision, but what about a possible successor?

The reasons for immediate action alleged here are unanswerable. France is evidently not disposed to use force to obtain a footing on that coast, so that the establishment of friendly relations with the Sheikhs and consequent opening of trade would be enough to keep her out.

If the idea I suggested, to send out a yacht with the concessionnaire to show the owner the capabilities of the country and the *bona fides* of the transaction, is not acceptable, it would be far better for England to pay over to me 20,000*l.* than to run any risk in the matter. Invested in goods and sent out in a steamer, it may still be time to secure the bargain or a fresh concession. The money could be given to me in trust. The arrangement with Messrs. Lennard was that after a preliminary trial they should invest up to 50,000*l.* and receive in exchange 40 per cent. of the profits. The trust would therefore be to the effect that I dispatch the steamer and retain at the disposal of a nominee both the capital and the 40 per cent. of the profits. Naturally, if too late, I undertake no responsibility, but there is no fear, even in that case, of a loss, because whether the French or anybody else has meantime come to terms with the Sheikhs, the interested parties would be in no position to start trading at once, and would permit the goods bartered to avoid any question being raised.

Such an arrangement would have the advantage that Her Majesty's Government could time its action in regard to Morocco entirely according to circumstances. If it should be needed to pay a duty to the Sultan, that could be done at the command of Her Majesty's Government, and there ought to be no difficulty to keep the Moors in good temper. If such concession to Morocco puts a stop to the business, the Sultan will be the first to repent and to take steps to put things straight, because I take it for granted he will not feel very comfortable if the French build their railway right round his country from Algiers to the coast below Cape Juby.

My pleading may be ascribed to self-interest, however, I state nothing but what I thoroughly believe in.

If your Lordship will read this letter, and ponder over all I say, you will agree with me that this is a case where it is permitted to go out of the ordinary course.

Whoever advances the money has every prospect of securing a most profitable investment, and even if it had to be paid out of public funds, no money would ever have been spent to greater purpose, because neglect may cause ruin to England's and the Conservative party's hopes, as opponents would no doubt make the most of it, if a profitable trade and a fine harbour should be turned over to the French through clinging to a mere punctilio.

Hoping for a prompt reply, I am, &c.

(Signed) J. W. H. JOCHIMSEN.

No. 104.

Sir H. MacDonell to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 9.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Lisbon, October 28, 1897.*

REFERRING to your Lordship's telegraphic messages Nos. 10 and 11 of the 27th instant, I beg to report that the Portuguese Minister at Madrid has again requested the Minister for Foreign Affairs to permit him to join the French and Italian Ambassadors in signing an appeal to the Spanish Government in favour of an exchange of prisoners with the Riffs.

Senhor Carvalho has, however, declined to sanction this step whilst the negotiations for ransom remain open.

His Excellency learns from the Portuguese Representative at Tangier that these negotiations have taken a favourable turn, in view of the serious illness of the French captive.

It is his Excellency's own opinion that independent action is being taken by France and Italy with the object of inducing the Riffs to regard them as favourably disposed towards themselves.

No. 105.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 135.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October 18, 1897.*

THE Deputy of the Sultan in Tangier recently addressed a note to the Doyen of the Diplomatic Body, stating that the Sultan with his troops would shortly pay a visit to Chaouia, and requesting the Foreign Representatives to instruct the Consular officers on the coast to withdraw all certificates of protection for agents of foreign merchants in that province, which had been granted subsequently to the disturbances in the Mzab district, part of the Chaouia Province.

This request could not be entertained, but we expressed our readiness to examine cases where it was proved that holders of certificates in the Mzab district, had been actually implicated in the above-mentioned disturbances. To extend this engagement to the whole province would be too general a concession, and would cause considerable dislocation in commercial affairs. We have also taken the opportunity of urging the Moorish Government to speedily settle the claims of foreign merchants who suffered in the Mzab disturbances.

I fear that the visit of the Sultan's troops to Chaouia will lead to great oppression and exactions, and still further impoverish a population which has not yet recovered from the events of the past few years. Merchants will find great difficulty in recovering debts, and credit will necessarily be much restricted, and trade suffer seriously if the Moorish Government continue to harass and plunder the people.

It is to be regretted that the Grand Vizier is so eager in the pursuit of wealth, which, when gained, principally lies idle and useless in his coffers, or in those of the Moorish Government, but his axiom is that to govern a country peacefully, and to avoid annoyance and anxiety to the Government, the people must be kept at starvation point, and deprived of all but the barest necessities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 106.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 136.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October 22, 1897.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 104 of the 13th instant, transmitting copies of correspondence with Mr. Jochimsen as to trade relations with the tribes between Cape Juby and Cape Bojador.

I do not think there is any likelihood of the Moorish Government being disposed to modify the Agreement of 1895 in regard to commercial relations with the districts on the coast line between the two above-mentioned capes. Should any foreign flag desire to trade with the tribes in those districts, presumably the Moorish Government would apply the same rules as are laid down in the Agreement of 1895, and if these Rules are, as Mr. Jochimsen states, prohibitory to British subjects, it is not clear in what manner foreign trade would be in a more favourable position.

In regard to "concessions" from Chiefs in those districts, it would be prudent if great caution were exercised in basing any undertakings upon them. Experience has shown the readiness with which these so-called "concessions" are granted, and the unfortunate consequences which result when they are put into operation against the wish of the Moorish Government. The Chiefs are proverbially treacherous, and their influence is usually limited, while the Moorish Government possess varied and sufficient means to render nugatory any instrument of which it does not approve.

I do not know the locality to which Mr. Jochimsen refers as being adaptable to a commodious port. In 1888 the Admiralty stated that "neither the geographical position of the coast between Cape Bojador and Wad Draa, nor the facilities for anchorage and communication with the shore, give it any value either as a coaling station or for other naval purposes."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 107.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 29.)

(No. 137.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 23, 1897.

THE Spanish Minister mentioned to me this morning that the situation of affairs at Melilla was not at all satisfactory. It appears that the tribes there revolted against the Moorish Governor, who eventually contrived to escape into the Spanish lines, where he now remains. The Spanish Governor has been during the last few days continually telegraphing to the Spanish Legation here stating that it was essential that some Moorish authority should be appointed to maintain order, as the tribes were unruly and aggressive, and he daily feared a collision between them and the Spanish posts.

The Sultan's Deputy in consequence sent an order to the Customs Administrators at Melilla to act for the Governor; but they declined to assume the responsibility, stating that they had no authority whatever with the tribes. The Sultan's Deputy thereupon has begged the Spanish authorities to await the arrival of the Sultan's uncle, Muley Amrani, who is on his way from Oudjda to punish the Riffs, and who would call at Melilla on his way and re-establish order. The Spanish Minister tells me he doubts if Muley Amrani will ever reach Melilla, as from information he has received, which he considers fairly trustworthy, that personage is himself surrounded by malcontent tribes, and is unable to advance.

The Spanish Governor at Melilla appears to be much concerned at the anarchy existing in his neighbourhood, and the Spanish Minister also fears that some collision may occur which may lead to further consequences.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 108.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 29.)

(No. 138.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 23, 1897.

THE question of the release of the European captives in the hands of the Riff pirates remains stationary for the moment, as time is being given to them to consider the proposal for a ransom.

In the meanwhile, the Italian and Portuguese Representatives have addressed a note to the Grand Vizier, pointing out the gravity of the case, and calling upon the

Moorish Government to send a personage of high degree to the Riff country, with instructions to demand, in the name of the Sultan, the immediate release of the captives. The Sultan's Deputy has also sent letters to the two Riff Chiefs in whose custody are the captives, calling upon them to surrender their prisoners without delay.

It appears that the Grand Vizier has hitherto made no communication, direct or indirect, to the Italian and Portuguese Representatives in regard to the capture of their compatriots; and it was therefore considered advisable to impress on him that the matter was not one to be treated with indifference.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 109.

Messrs. Dehn and Heine to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 29.)

47, *Newton Street, Dale Street, Manchester,*
My Lord, *October* 28, 1897.

WE beg leave to address your Lordship in an urgent matter.

One of our customers in Sallee and Rabat (Morocco), a Moor, named Hadj Benaisa Lalo, owes us a considerable sum of money for goods supplied to him in 1895 and 1896. He now asserts that he is not in a position to pay, and as our agents in Rabat, Messrs. H. Weickert and Enke, are convinced that the debtor can pay, they have requested the British Vice-Consul there, Mr. John Frost, to order the arrest of the debtor, and to have his store sealed up and an embargo laid upon his property. Mr. Frost has declined to comply with this request on the plea that our representatives must furnish proof that the debtor is in a position to pay. Our agents thereupon had an interview with the Kaïd, or Governor of Sallee, from whom, however, no satisfaction can be got, and nothing can be done till we get full and energetic support from the Consulate.

It is generally supposed in Rabat that a brother of Hadj Benaisa Lalo, who is in a good position, has been and is still a partner with our debtor, but we have no documentary proof of this.

We request your Lordship to instruct, if possible, the Consulate at Casablanca to make a full and independent inquiry into this case, and to order that our debtor be put on oath in a mosque or saint-house as to the exact value of his liabilities and assets, and that he should also, as well as his brother, swear that they have not been and are not partners in the business.

We have already addressed the Consulate at Casablanca in this affair on the 20th instant, and now address your Lordship direct, as this matter is urgent and of great importance, and also for the purpose of inclosing an extract from the letter of our agents received to-day and referring to this affair.

We are, &c.
(Signed) B. A. DEHN AND HEINE.

Inclosure in No. 109.

Extract from Letter received to-day from Messrs. H. Weickert and Enke, Rabat, in the affair Hadj Benaisa Lalo.

THE interview with the Kaïd was of no result. He, instead of treating the affair impartially, only supported Lalo. The latter continues to assert that he cannot pay. According to his statement, he owes to European firms about 1,800*l.*, and to some Moors 4,800 dollars.

Against these claims appear 3,000 dollars for goods in stock, 7,000 dollars outstandings [?], and 2,000 dollars property.

We, of course, have not acknowledged this declaration, and did not conceal our surprise to the Kaïd that he is willing to support such a swindler.

We wrote again to Mr. Frost, demanding Lalo's imprisonment and the arrest of all property belonging to him and to his brother, who, everybody knows, is the partner of Hadj Benaisa Lalo.

It is a pity we cannot prove it by documents. In this case you ought to be paid to the last farthing. The only thing we require is an energetic support by the Consulate, so that Lalo finds it impossible to defraud us.

Mr. Frost, however, takes any plea from Lalo for pure truth, and asks us to prove the contrary.

No. 110.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 30.)

No. 280.)
My Lord, *Madrid, October* 25, 1897.

SOME of the newspapers are attracting notice to the alleged intention of the King of the Belgians to obtain a sanitary station on the coast of Morocco. The Spanish journals lay down that no European country has the right to any settlement on that coast except Spain, whose establishments and territory have been under her dominion for many years by right of conquest, and acknowledged by other European Powers. However unimportant may appear the action of the King of the Belgians, it is declared to be inconsistent with the *status quo*, and as forming a dangerous precedent.

Extracts have also been published from French newspapers declaring the danger enhanced by the circumstance that the King of the Belgians is supposed to be strongly imbued with German influence in his general policy.

Nothing has been said to me on the subject by the Spanish Government, which is much occupied by other matters, but I think that the controversy is assuming some importance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 111.

Foreign Office to Mr. J. W. H. Jochimsen.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 30, 1897.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th instant in regard to proposed commercial operations on the coast of Morocco between Cape Juby and Cape Bojador.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 112.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 31.)

(No. 46.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, October* 31, 1897.

REFERRING to Riff piracy question:

The French captive has died, and the Greek captain being ill has been brought here in the French cruiser, having been liberated by the pirates, on the French Legation giving two Algerians as hostages and a sum of 500 dollars.

The negotiations regarding ransom are still being continued by the Portuguese Agent, but success is, I fear, now doubtful.

No. 113.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 2.)

(No. 47.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November* 2, 1897.

I HAVE been informed, confidentially, by the Portuguese Chargé d'Affaires that he has received a telegram from his Agent stating that negotiations for the ransom of the three Portuguese captives are practically concluded. The Italian Minister, however, is anxious that the captives should not be released before the liberation of the Italian prisoner, who has been placed under charge of another Riff, is also effected. The Portuguese Representative is of opinion that the Italian captive will not be assisted by the further detention of the Portuguese, but thinks that he will also be freed by his guardian when he is the only captive left. He has communicated with his Government, and is awaiting instructions.

No. 114.

Sir H. MacDonell to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 3.)

(No. 81.)
My Lord, *Lisbon, October* 30, 1897.

SENHOR CARVALHO informed me on the 26th instant that he had that day received a telegram from the Portuguese Minister at Madrid, stating that the French Ambassador had invited him and his Italian colleague to sign a joint note to the Spanish Government, pressing for the consent of the latter to an arrangement for the release of the captives in the hands of the Riffs, in exchange for the Riff prisoners in the hands of the Spanish authorities. The French Ambassador was stated to have assured his colleagues that he had reason to believe that their joint request would be favourably received by the Spanish Government. The Comte de Macedo (the Portuguese Minister at Madrid) pressed Senhor Carvalho for an immediate reply, authorizing him to sign the joint note, as the French Ambassador was about to leave Madrid, and was credibly assured that the negotiations for the ransom, resumed through the Portuguese Agent, Pinto, would certainly fail.

Senhor Carvalho had at once instructed M. de Macedo to abstain from signing the joint note, as, in accordance with the understanding come to with your Lordship, he was determined not to negotiate with the Riffs on the basis of an exchange before it should be definitively proved that the release of the captives could not be obtained by ransom. His Excellency added that a step in the direction proposed by the French Ambassador, could only jeopardize the ransom negotiations which were about to be resumed by the Agent, Pinto.

Senhor Carvalho at the same time summoned the Italian Chargé d'Affaires, and requested him to ascertain if his Government had authorized their Representative at Madrid to follow the course suggested by the French Ambassador there, which was at variance with the received understanding that every means should be exhausted for the liberation of the captives by ransom, before resorting to the undesirable plan of exchange of prisoners.

To this inquiry the Italian Chargé d'Affaires has up to the present received no reply.

On the 27th instant, M. de Macedo again pressed Senhor Carvalho by telegraph for permission to sign the joint note proposed by the French Ambassador, whereupon the Minister for Foreign Affairs peremptorily declined.

Senhor Carvalho is disposed to explain this irregular proceeding of the French Government by the supposition that, having failed in their first attempt to obtain for the Riffs an exchange of prisoners, they have now resorted to the scheme of persuading the Spanish Government to consent to that course without awaiting the result of Senhor Pinto's negotiations. Their object in so doing would be to ingratiate themselves with the Riffs by insuring the failure of the negotiations for ransom. On the other hand, his Excellency thinks it probable that M. de Reverseaux may be aware of the understanding come to by the Portuguese Government with your Lordship, and may consequently be indifferent to the fate of the Portuguese captives; it would suffice, from his point of view, to secure the release of the captives of other nationalities

(and it is stated that the French subject is dangerously ill), whilst the King's Government would only have itself to blame if the Portuguese sailors were left in captivity, owing to its abstention from common action with the Government of the French Republic.

To resume, his Excellency added, the line of conduct pursued at this juncture by the French Government must inevitably tend to two results—a hindrance to the negotiations for ransom, and an enhancement of French credit with the Riffs.

I have, &c.
(For Sir Hugh MacDonell),
(Signed) C. CONWAY THORNTON.

No. 115.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 3.)

(No. 48.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November* 3, 1897.

WITH reference to Riff piracy the Spanish Minister has been instructed to dispatch Spanish man-of-war to Riff coast to give the Riffs a formal assurance that the trial of prisoners at present in Spanish hands will be concluded within three months' time at the outside, and that they will all be pardoned by the Queen-Regent, whatever be the result of the trial. He will demand that all captives be surrendered to Spanish man-of-war in exchange for this assurance.

The French Chargé d'Affaires and the Sultan's deputy asked me to-day that our two Riff prisoners should be forthwith liberated and sent, with the other Riff prisoners here, on Spanish man-of-war. In reply, I informed them that, without receiving instructions, I could not take so serious a step in regard to the former, and that I had nothing to do with the latter.

I am informed by Italian and Portuguese Representatives that, owing to this last development, they give up hope of ransom, and are telegraphing to their Governments in that sense, suggesting at the same time that liberation of Riff prisoners be requested of your Lordship.

By these means about twenty Riff prisoners would be set at liberty in exchange for four Europeans in captivity.

No. 116.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 112.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 3, 1897.

I TRANSMIT to you the accompanying copy of a letter from Messrs. Dehn and Heine,* requesting assistance in recovering a sum of money said to be owing to their firm by a Moorish subject at Rabat for goods supplied to him in 1895 and 1896.

I request you to make inquiries into the matter and furnish me with a report.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 117.

Foreign Office to Messrs. Dehn and Heine.

Gentlemen, *Foreign Office, November* 3, 1897.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo, in regard to a sum of money which you are anxious to recover from a Moorish subject, named Hadj Benaisa Lala, of Rabat.

I am to inform you that a copy of your letter will be forwarded to Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier with instructions to furnish a report on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

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* No. 109.

No. 118.

Mr. Gosselin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 3.)

(No 203.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, November* 3, 1897, 7·30 P.M.

A TELEGRAM was received to-day from the French Minister at Tangier, to the effect that his Spanish colleague had told him that Spain would undertake to conclude the trial and to liberate the prisoners at Alhucemas within three months if the Riffians would at once set free the Europeans they still hold.

This will probably be agreed to by the Riffs, if the Moorish Government immediately liberate the men they have now imprisoned.

M. Hanotaux asks me to beg your Lordship, in the name of humanity, to send instructions to Sir A. Nicolson to give his colleagues support, and to assist them in completing this arrangement with the Shereefian Government.

An Algerian still remains in the power of the Riffs as a hostage for the Greek, though it is true that the Frenchman has died, and M. Hanotaux is afraid that the Chamber will make difficulties unless the question is settled immediately.

No. 119.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 4.)

(No. 140.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 29, 1897.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 138 of the 23rd instant, I have the honour to report that negotiations for the release by ransom of the captives in the hands of the Riff pirates have been reopened through an Agent of the Portuguese Legation. It is possible that the latter may succeed in his mission, but in the event of failure I presume that no further effort will be made in that direction, and that the question of an exchange of prisoners will be revived.

This solution of the question, which circumstances may enforce, will be an unfortunate, though possibly a necessary, one, and if unaccompanied with any chastizement of the Bocoyan tribe, which, among the Riffians, appears to stand alone in the perpetration of piracy, will go far to diminish the respect for foreign Powers both in the eyes of the Riffians and also of the Moorish authorities and public. So far as I can judge, the feeling among my colleagues here, who are more directly interested in the question, is adverse to any European punitive action, either collective or individual. Their objections are based not only on the physical difficulties of the task, which they probably exaggerate, but chiefly on the possibility of the administration of punishment by a foreign Power, or Powers, leading to a general excitement and upheaval throughout the Riff Territory which might cause grave complications. They would prefer to leave the time, method, and task of chastizement to the nominal Sovereign of the Riffians, who, even were he willing to undertake the duty, would, in all probability, do so in a vicarious manner by suborning native tribes to fall upon the Bocoyans. Such a procedure would, at the best, be one which would require considerable preparation, and I have grave doubts if it would ever be put efficiently into practice. Moreover, the effect would not be the same as if the punishment were inflicted by a foreign Power or Powers who have suffered in the persons or property of their subjects by the misdeeds of the Bocoyan pirates.

I would with all respect submit to your Lordship that if an exchange of prisoners be conceded, it should be accompanied with a condition that the Bocoya tribe should be immediately punished, and that that chastisement should be inflicted by a foreign Power. Personally, I do not quite understand in what manner a local chastisement would have the far-reaching consequences which are feared by some of my colleagues, and I feel fairly confident that if the matter be left in the hands of the Moorish Government nothing really effectual will be accomplished.

The Bocoyans have, in the past two years, committed several acts of piracy on British and foreign vessels, leading, in one case, to loss of life, and they have been enabled to negotiate on an equal, if not a superior, footing with foreign Powers, and will very possibly obtain what terms they may choose to impose. It is scarcely

probable that their success, if allowed to be secured with absolute impunity, will deter them from recommencing their nefarious practices, especially when these are profitable, and attended with little or no risk.

I trust your Lordship will forgive me for submitting the above considerations, but as the time is evidently approaching when the release of the captives will be accomplished in one way or another, I thought it my duty to lay before your Lordship my personal opinions for what they may be worth.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 120.

Sir H. MacDonell to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 10.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Lisbon, November 4, 1897.*

UPON the subject of your Lordship's telegram No. 13 of yesterday's date, Señor de Carvalho has informed me that the Portuguese Representative at Tangier reports definitive failure of ransom negotiations, a result which he is inclined to attribute to the action of the French Government, whose hostages have been in reality their agents.

The Portuguese Minister at Madrid has been consequently authorized by his Excellency to join French and Italian Representatives in their appeal to the Spanish Government to sanction the exchange of the captives, a demand which that Government will probably agree to.

Señor de Carvalho trusts, in conclusion, that your Lordship will now consent to the proposed exchange, inasmuch as all means of obtaining release by ransom have been exhausted

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No. 121.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Gosselin.

(No. 440.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November 4, 1897, 11 P.M.*

RIFF piracy.

I request that you will inform M. Hanotaux, in reply to his Excellency's message, conveyed in your telegram No. 203 of the 3rd instant, that I have instructed Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier to act in accordance with his wishes in this matter.

I am desirous of learning his Excellency's views regarding the means to be adopted for counteracting the encouragement which the Riffs can scarcely fail to derive from what has occurred to commit fresh acts of piracy and to make captives for the purpose of securing immunity from punishment.

No. 122.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 19.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November 4, 1897, 11 P.M.*

RIFF piracy.

I have received your telegram No. 48 of the 3rd instant, and, in view of the circumstances which you describe, I authorize you to inform the Moorish Government that no objection will be offered by Her Majesty's Government to the release of the prisoners belonging to the Riff tribe, now detained for piratical attacks on British subjects, in return for the liberation of the Europeans held captive by the tribe.

No. 123*.

Major Spilsbury to Foreign Office.—(Received November 5.)

Sir, *37, Abbey Road, London, November 4, 1897.*

A COPY of your letter of the 20th October to the Globe Venture Syndicate was, at your request, duly handed to me.

I have the honour to place once more on record my emphatic denial to the statement, repeated therein, that I had agreed not to enter the Sus without the permission of the Sultan of Morocco.

It would appear from your statement of my movements, after receipt of the communications made by the Consular officers of Mogador and Las Palmas, that I returned forthwith to England; so far from this being the case, I proceeded to the Sus, and was most cordially received by the tribes.

In order that I may understand the grounds of the position taken up by the Foreign Office with regard to my humble efforts to open up trade in the Sus, I beg to ask you for information on the following points:—

1. Am I correct in supposing that our Treaty rights entitle us to travel, reside, or trade in any portion of the Sultan's dominions, subject to any Police Regulations in force at the time, against other European nations?

2. Is the Sus an integral portion of the Sultan's dominions?

3. On what grounds am I denied, in the Sus, the rights and protection which are not withheld from British subjects in that part of Morocco north of the Atlas.

I have the honour to point out that, if the Moorish Government is allowed to construe "Police Regulations" into the withholding of our Treaty rights in regard to the southern half of the Empire, there is nothing to prevent them from applying the same doctrine to the northern portion. In other words, they may abrogate the Treaty at their will and pleasure. Is this the view held by the Foreign Office?

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. GYBBON SPILSBURY.

No. 123.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 141.)

My Lord, *Tangier, October 30, 1897.*

THE representative of the Anglo-Jewish Association in Mogador has, through the British Vice-Consul at that port, brought to my notice two alleged cases of forcible conversion to Islamism of two Jewish youths. The first case appears to be a particularly hard one, as the individual in question is a child of only 10 years of age, and though his parents made every effort to procure his restitution to their care, he seems to have been deported secretly from Mogador and is said to be now at Cape Juby. The second case is that of a lad of 18, and it is not so clear that his original conversion to Islam was obtained by force or intimidation, though he subsequently recanted, and after much ill-usage is now in prison at Mogador.

The agent of the Anglo-Jewish Association has given me full details as to each case, and I propose to embody a summary of them in the form of a Memorandum which I should take an early opportunity of communicating unofficially to the Grand Vizier.

I have requested the British Vice-Consul at Mogador to inform the parties who have interested themselves in the two cases that Her Majesty's Legation will take steps to bring them to the notice of the Grand Vizier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 124.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 50.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November 5, 1897.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 19, I have informed Moorish Government in sense desired. I have been told by Spanish Minister that he has the intention of dispatching his man-of-war with as little delay as possible, but he is now of opinion it is expedient that French Consular Agent should be sent as well, in order to persuade the pirates that they can place full reliance on the assurances of the Spanish Government. The Consular Agent, it would appear, had previously advised pirates not to hand over captives before all prisoners had been released. The Spanish Minister fears, therefore, that, unless the Consular Agent in person explains to the Riffs the new situation, fresh difficulties might be created in regard to release of captives, owing to the delay which will of necessity take place in surrendering the Riff prisoners at present in the hands of the Spaniards, and awaiting trial.

No. 125.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 6.)

(No. 285.)

My Lord, *Madrid, October 31, 1897.*

THE "Diario de Barcelona," a serious journal, publishes a conversation said to have taken place between its correspondent at Paris and a person well acquainted with diplomatic matters.

The latter had remarked that employment must be found for the army returning from Cuba, and was of opinion that this employment would be found in Morocco. He considered in the most absolute manner that Spain would undertake the conquest of that country, which would be not only a satisfaction for Spain, but a guarantee of security for Europe. Piracy was put an end to by the annexation of Algiers to France, and it is therefore natural that Spain should proceed in the same manner in Morocco.

"But will England and Germany raise no objections?" asked the correspondent.

"Certainly," was the reply; "it is plain that England considers as her own by right all territory not occupied by a European Power. Further, as Morocco is opposite Gibraltar, England would consider it a right to exact a territory capable of being fortified in front of Gibraltar so as to command both sides of the Strait.

"As to Germany, she cannot take Morocco, and as she would wish to carry on everywhere a policy hostile to England, she would most probably support the projects of Spain against that Power."

"But this," the speaker went on to say, "would not be done at once. As in Tunis a tribe would have to be punished, precautions must be taken on the coast, and ultimately there would be a temporary occupation like that of the English in Egypt. Finally, with the help of the Moorish anarchy, it would be indispensable to go further, especially if the Sultan of Morocco undertook the defence of the Riff pirates. Hence it will not be necessary to stop Spain in her first projects, and afterwards it would be too late."

"Will France consent?" "It is evident," answered the French speaker, "that later a rectification of the frontier will be necessary between Algiers and Morocco. Anyhow, it would be better for France to have Spaniards as neighbours, instead of the turbulent Moorish tribes, who are always giving trouble."

The "Tiempo," in reproducing at length the conversation in point, while withholding its belief from the scheme sketched out, considers it, like everything touching Morocco, as worthy of consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 126.

Mr. Gosselin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 6.)

(No. 677.)
My Lord, *Paris, November* 5, 1897.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a note which I have this day addressed to M. Hanotaux, in accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram No. 440 of yesterday's date, informing his Excellency that Sir A. Nicolson has been instructed to inform the Moorish Government that Her Majesty's Government will offer no objection to the exchange of the Riff prisoners for the four Europeans now held by the tribesmen, and requesting to be favoured with his Excellency's views as to the steps which should be taken in order to put a stop to the repeated acts of piracy on the Riffian coast.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

Inclosure in No. 126.

Mr. Gosselin to M. Hanotaux.

M. le Ministre, *Paris, November* 5, 1897.

I DID not fail to inform the Marquess of Salisbury of the substance of the conversation which I had the honour of having with your Excellency on the 3rd instant with regard to the negotiations for the release of the Europeans still held in custody by the Riff pirates, and I stated that your Excellency, on humanitarian grounds, was most anxious that Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier should be instructed to support his colleagues in the proposed representations to the Moorish Government.

I have now much pleasure in informing your Excellency that Her Majesty's Minister at the Shereefian Court has been authorized to inform the Moorish Government that Her Majesty's Government will offer no objection to the liberation of the Riff prisoners now in detention on account of attacks on British subjects in exchange for the surrender of the four European prisoners still held in captivity by the Riff pirates.

Lord Salisbury would be glad to be favoured with your Excellency's views as to the steps which should be taken by the Powers interested to counteract the ill effects of the encouragement thus given to the Riffs to repeat these deplorable acts of piracy, and to put a stop to the seizure by them of Europeans for the purpose of securing immunity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 127.

Mr. Gosselin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 8.)

(No. 679.)
My Lord, *Paris, November* 7, 1897.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 677 of the 5th instant, inclosing copy of the note which, in accordance with your Lordship's directions, I addressed to M. Hanotaux informing him that the necessary instructions with regard to the negotiations for the surrender of the captives still in the hands of the Riff pirates would be sent to Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier in the sense desired by him, I have the honour to report that his Excellency, at our interview yesterday, begged me to express to your Lordship his grateful thanks for the promptitude with which Her Majesty's Government had acceded to his request.

His Excellency has been informed that the Riffs have handed over the body of the unfortunate Frenchman who died in captivity, and he trusts soon to hear that the remaining captives, including the Algerian hostage, have been set at liberty.

With regard to your Lordship's request to learn the views of the French Government as to how a repetition of these repeated acts of piracy can best be prevented in the future, his Excellency said that M. de Monbel, the French Minister at the Shereefian Court, had left for Morocco a few days ago, and he would be instructed to concert with his colleagues as to the steps to be taken with this object.

The first point, his Excellency said, was to effect the release of the unfortunate captives; this once effected, it would undoubtedly be necessary to devise means for putting an end to an intolerable state of things.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 128.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 10.)

(No. 52.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November* 10, 1897.

WITH reference to Riff piracies, the Spanish man-of-war, having on board the Tangier prisoners, left here last night for the Riff coast. Three days ago the French Consular Agent proceeded to Riff country with letters from Spanish Minister to adjust matters for an exchange. He states that fresh difficulties have arisen, which he was in hopes of smoothing down, although he does not mention the precise nature of these difficulties.

No. 129.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 116.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 10, 1897.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 141 of the 30th ultimo, reporting that you have received from the Agent of the Anglo-Jewish Association full details of two alleged cases of forcible conversion to Islamism of two Jewish youths, and that it is your intention to bring the matter unofficially to the notice of the Grand Vizier.

I have to inform you that the action which you propose to take is approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 130.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Gosselin.

(No. 401.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 10, 1897.

THE French Minister spoke to me this afternoon with reference to the case of piracy upon the Riff coast of Morocco. He said that all efforts to procure the release of the captives by ransom had failed, and that there was evidently no other mode of obtaining their release except by acceding to the demands of the Riff tribesmen, and releasing some Riff men who were in the custody of the English authorities at Gibraltar, as well as some others. I replied that I adhered to the view which I had taken at the first, that, if no other mode of releasing the captives could be devised, it would be necessary to assent to this exchange, and I was therefore prepared to do so. But, I added, that I did it with extreme reluctance, and that I felt that if the case were to recur, it would be necessary to take some measures for preventing the Riff tribes from looking upon piracy as the legitimate method of releasing any of their friends who fell under the criminal law. I made on the same day a similar statement to the Italian Ambassador, who asked me a similar question in reference to one of his compatriots who had been captured.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 131.

Foreign Office to Major Spilsbury.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 10, 1897.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, requesting information on certain points in connection with the warning recently addressed to the Globe Venture Syndicate in regard to their decision to proceed with their commercial enterprise in the Sûs district of Morocco without having first obtained the permission of the Moorish Government.

I am to inform you, in reply, that Lord Salisbury considers the objection entertained by the Moorish Government to your visit to the Sûs tribes to be a reasonable precaution, and his Lordship must maintain the decision conveyed to the Syndicate unless and until that objection shall have been removed.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 132.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 11.)

(No. 53.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, November 11, 1897.

WITH reference to the Riff piracies, I am informed by the Spanish Minister that he has received information of the liberation of the captives.

No. 133.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 12.)

(No. 54.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, November 12, 1897.

WITH reference to Riff piracies, Spanish man-of-war returned here yesterday bringing the captives, who were delivered to their respective authorities, and also the two pirate Chiefs, with whom the Spanish Minister desired to discuss in a friendly manner arrangements for the future.

I am informed confidentially by the Italian Minister that he made a protest against the pirates landing here, and stated that, in the event of their coming on shore, he would ask for their arrest for complicity in an attack on an Italian vessel. For this reason they remain on board. I hear that the Deputy of the Sultan has engaged to address notes to the Portuguese and Italian Representatives requesting a general pardon of all the pirates and the passing of an Act of Oblivion. If such note is sent, Italian Minister would not reply without instructions, and both he and I are of opinion that sufficient concessions have already been granted to the pirates.

No. 135*.

Sir H. MacDonell to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 14, 11 A.M.)

(No. 11.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Lisbon, November* 14, 1897, 9 A.M.

RIFF piracy.

The Portuguese Representative at Tangier reports that he has joined the Italian Minister in protesting against the proposal to land the Riff Chiefs. Instructions have been sent to Portuguese Representative to act in concert with his British and Italian colleagues and the proposal of the Spanish Representative, which is described as strange and uncalled for.

No. 134.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 13.)

(No. 55.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November* 13, 1897.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 54, the Spanish man-of-war has conveyed the two pirate Chiefs back to their homes. A certain sum of money, I am informed, had to be distributed amongst the pirates before the liberation of the captives could be brought about, and the former at one moment assumed a threatening attitude.

No. 135.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 14.)

(No. 56.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November* 14, 1897.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 43, Her Majesty's Consul at Dar-al-Baida reports a rumour that the Globe Venture Expedition intend landing about the 16th instant at either Asaka or some other port in the south of Morocco. Mr. Maclean considers that the natives may possibly welcome the expedition, which would obtain a footing owing to the difficulties the Sultan has now to face and the weak authority he exercises in the south. The expedition which is being at present conducted by His Majesty in the neighbourhood of Dar-al-Baida does not afford a promising outlook.

No. 136.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 15.)

(No. 143.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 4, 1897.

CID MOHAMMED LEBADY, one of the Sultan's deputies here, called upon me yesterday morning and informed me that he desired to speak to me on a small question. He stated that the Moorish Government had endeavoured to procure the release of the captives who were in the hands of the Bocoyan pirates, but that their efforts had been without success. He therefore requested me to permit the release of all the Riff prisoners at Tangier in order that they might be exchanged for the captives. He said there were ten or twelve such prisoners, and he believed that two were detained at the especial request of the British Legation.

I told Mohammed Lebady that I could not agree with him that his request was a "small question," as I considered it a serious one. I, of course, had not to concern myself with those Riffians who were imprisoned at Tangier, with the exception of the two who had been identified as having formed part of a piratical band who had pillaged a British vessel. Piracy, I explained to his Excellency, was considered a very serious crime in Great Britain, and the frequent acts of piracy which had been committed by the Bocoyan tribe did not afford any justification for leniency in regard to those evil-doers whom, fortunately, it had been possible to arrest. I would, however, transmit his request to your Lordship, as he had made it in the interests of the unfortunate European captives.

Simultaneously with the arrival of Mohammed Lebady, the French Chargé d'Affaires paid me a visit, in order to inform me that the Spanish Minister had received a telegram from his Government to the effect that the trial of the Riffian prisoners at Alhucemas would be expedited, and that it would in any case be terminated within a period of three months. The Spanish Minister was, at the same time, authorized to announce that, whatever would be the result of the trial, all the prisoners would be granted a free pardon, and liberated when the judicial formalities had been concluded. M. Riffault thereupon begged me to authorize the immediate liberation of the two Riff prisoners who were detained by order of this Legation, and he had little doubt that, when they were handed to the Riffians, and the assurance of the Spanish Minister had been formally communicated to the latter, the captives would at once regain their freedom.

I told M. Riffault that I naturally could do nothing in regard to the Riff prisoners without your Lordship's sanction, that it seemed to me excessively liberal conditions were being conceded to the pirates, and that I feared that the success which was attending their pretensions did not offer much security against a repetition of their malpractices. M. Riffault said that it was going a little too far to characterize the Bocoyans as pirates, and that he would assure me no further act of piracy would ever recur. I asked him what authority or guarantee he had for such an assurance, and he replied that he had the promises of the pirates. M. Riffault urged very strongly the release of the Riff prisoners, and I told him that I would transmit his request to your Lordship, though I felt bound to state that from all the information which had reached me it would appear that the captives would have been set at liberty many weeks ago by ransom, if certain individuals had not intervened in a contrary sense. Ransom, it was true, was not an entirely satisfactory solution, but to my mind it was infinitely preferable to freeing individuals who had been arrested for serious crimes committed against the subjects of other Powers who were not directly interested in the present question.

I subsequently saw the Spanish Minister, who confirmed what M. Riffault had told me, but said he had no instructions as regards the Riffians who were prisoners in Tangier, but he would be happy to place them on board his man-of-war if they were delivered to him. The Italian and Portuguese Representatives expressed to me later their opinion that, owing to the new development of the case, it was useless pursuing the ransom negotiations; that they would inform their Governments in that sense, and suggest that the surrender of the two Riff prisoners in Tangier should be requested of your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 137.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 144.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November 5, 1897.*

I CAUSED Cid Mohammed Lebady to be informed this morning that, as the Bocoyan pirates apparently declined to release the captives who were in their hands unless the prisoners in Tangier and at Alhucenas were liberated, Her Majesty's Government, for their part, would offer no objection to the liberation of the two Riff prisoners who were in detention here for having taken part in the pillage of a British vessel in 1895. I explained that if the exchange of the captives were by any mischance to fall through, I should expect the return to prison of the two above-mentioned individuals.

Cid Mohammed Lebady expressed, on behalf of the Moorish Government, his warm thanks to your Lordship for this concession, and said he fully understood that if the captives were not surrendered the Riff prisoners should return to jail.

I saw the Spanish Minister this morning and informed him of the step I had taken, by your Lordship's direction, and I said that he should now apply to the Moorish authorities for the men, if he desired to send them to the Riff coast on a Spanish man-of-war. M. de Ojéda said that he hoped to be able to dispatch the vessel almost immediately; he was only awaiting the arrival of a sergeant attached to the Spanish Military Mission, who was a Bocoyan, and who he thought might be of use. He also informed me that he found it would be necessary to dispatch the French Consular Agent also in the vessel, as it appeared that this person had counselled the pirates not to part with the captives until they had actually received in their hands all the prisoners both here and at Alhucenas. As there would be necessarily some little delay in the liberation of the latter, he was afraid, unless the pirates had matters explained to them personally by the Consular Agent, they might decline to surrender the captives simply on the faith of the assurance that the Alhucenas prisoners would be subsequently liberated.

There is some fear that the pirates may also demand a ransom, as there is a strong party amongst them who will be disturbed at the prospect of making no pecuniary profit out of the transaction. The Italian Minister seemed to think that this need not prove a serious obstacle, as the money could be subsequently recovered from the Sultan.

The terms, therefore, which the pirates would in that case obtain would be considerably in excess of what they originally demanded, as their conditions in the early stages of the question were the liberation of one prisoner from Tangier and only two or three from Alhucenas. They will now receive about twenty prisoners, and possibly a considerable money payment in addition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 138.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 145.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November 5, 1897.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 107 of the 20th instant, I have the honour to report that I have communicated to the Grand Vizier a translation of the letter which, by your Lordship's direction, was addressed to the Directors of the Globe Venture Syndicate. I have also caused Cid Mohammed Torres to be verbally informed of the substance of the letter, and his Excellency expressed much gratification at this notification. I have taken steps that it should be publicly known here that the enterprise in which the agent of the Globe Venture Syndicate is engaged will not receive the countenance or support of Her Majesty's Government unless the consent of the Moorish Government is previously obtained.

I have requested Mr. Consul Maclean to acquaint Mr. Vice-Consul Johnston with the nature of the communication addressed to the Globe Venture Syndicate, and to authorize that gentleman to bring it to the public knowledge.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 139.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 147.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November 7, 1897.*

I RECEIVED last night by special courier a despatch from Mr. Consul Maclean, inclosing one from Mr. Vice-Consul Johnston, informing me that Mr. Cunningham Graham, the former Member of Parliament, had been arrested with his interpreter, a Turkish subject, by a Kaïd Gundafy at a place near Tizi, in the Atlas Mountains, and in the direction of the Sûs district.

Mr. Graham passed through Tangier some five weeks ago, and told me he was most anxious to visit Tarudant in the Sûs territory. I advised him to postpone this project, as the Moorish authorities were at this moment extremely suspicious of any movement of foreigners, and especially of British travellers, in the Sûs district. Mr. Graham was unwilling to abandon his trip, but said he would take every precaution, and gave me to understand that in any case he would follow my advice, and, on arrival at Mogador, acquaint the Governor of that place with his intentions, and ask for the necessary escort. So far as I know this course was not adopted, and Mr. Graham has evidently endeavoured to carry out his journey on his own responsibility. Mr. Graham in a letter to Mr. Johnston, of which I beg leave to inclose a copy, is apparently well treated, and I have no fear of any mishap occurring to him. Mr. Johnston has dispatched a messenger with a letter from the Governor of Mogador to the Kaïd Gundafy requesting the immediate release of the travellers.

I have also sent an express courier to the Grand Vizier with a similar demand, and I have little doubt that Mr. Graham will very shortly regain his liberty.

Doubtless, the Kaïd has arrested him on suspicion that Mr. Graham is connected in some manner with commercial enterprises in the Sûs; but, he should not have prevented the travellers from returning to Mogador as they desired, and subsequently, I propose to ask the Grand Vizier to obtain some explanation of the action of the Kaïd.

Mr. Johnston also warned Mr. Graham of the risks he would incur; but the latter is an adventurous traveller, and difficult to dissuade from making journeys which he thinks will be interesting.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 139.

Mr. Graham to Vice-Consul Johnston.

Tlata-Yacoob, Dar-el-Kuntafi, Oued-en-Nafees, October 22, 1897.

Dear Mr. Johnston,

I REGRET to say that, being unable to cross to Sûs by the Imintaunt road, we were obliged to take the road from Aurzuiz to Tizi which follows the River Nafees. All went well till within four hours of Tizi. At that point the Kaïd-li-Taib-ben-li-Muhammed-el-Gundafy arrested us on the 19th October. Under various pretexts we have been detained here ever since, and there does not seem any immediate prospect of being allowed to depart. We think that he has written to the Sultan for instructions. This morning we saddled our mules with the intention of returning to Mogador, bnt we were at once ordered to unsaddle.

Though we are treated with civility, and provided with food and a tent, the position is the reverse of pleasant, more especially as the Kaïd will neither see us nor give us any explanation of why we are detained. Under these unpleasant circumstances I would be much obliged if you would at once use every possible effort to procure our release, and communicate at once with Sir Arthur Nicolson, stating the facts of the case.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CUNNINGHAM GRAHAM.

No. 140.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 57.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, November 15, 1897.

WITH reference to the Riff piracies I have to report the arrival here of the Sultan's steamer, with 300 soldiers on board, which is to proceed to the Riff coast, effect a combination with the neighbouring Riff tribes, and inflict punishment on the pirates.

No. 141.

Foreign Office to Sir G. Goldie.

THE Under-Secretary of State presents his compliments to Sir George Goldie, and is directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of his letter of the 9th instant with reference to Cape Juby.

Foreign Office,
November 15, 1897.

No. 142.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 16.)

(No. 58.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, November 16, 1897.

RIFF piracy.

My telegram No. 57.

I am now informed by the deputy of the Sultan that, owing to the liberation of the captives, the Moorish steamer will proceed to Melilla to arrange matters there

instead of going to the Riff coast, and that letters are to be dispatched to His Majesty asking for instructions as regards pirates.

It seems, therefore, that the punishment of the pirates by the Moorish Government is somewhat remote.

No. 143.

Sir C. Ford to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 18.)

(No. 198.)
My Lord,

Rome, November 14, 1897.

AT an interview I had yesterday with the Marquis Visconti-Venosta, his Excellency alluded to the satisfaction he had derived at the question of the release of the Italian ship-master, who had been captured by Riff pirates, having been at last effected; and the Marquis spoke in high terms of the conduct of Her Majesty's Government in this affair, which had so greatly contributed to the desired end; and he begged me to convey to your Lordship the expression of the best thanks of the Italian Government for the friendly action of Her Majesty's Government on this occasion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 144.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 149.)
My Lord,

Tangier, November 10, 1897.

WITH reference to Mr. White's despatch No. 83 of the 2nd July last, I have the honour to transmit the reply of the Grand Vizier to the note addressed to him in regard to the attack on the British falucho "Virgen de los Angeles."

The Spanish Minister has promised to write to the authorities of Malaga reminding them of the request for copies of the proceedings of the inquiry held at Alhucemas, and he should receive a reply in a few days.

In view of the events which have occurred recently, the draft note inclosed in Mr. White's despatch No. 100 of the 7th August may require some modifications. Assuming that the information which is expected from Malaga is either not forthcoming, or does not furnish evidence of the vessel having been engaged in contraband trade, your Lordship might wish me to limit my communication to the Vizier to a simple request for payment of the claim, without any reference to the question of punishment of the Riff pirates.

Your Lordship may desire to treat the question of the attack on the "Virgen de los Angeles" as a distinct case, and not attach it to the larger question of the attitude to be assumed either by the Moorish or other Governments towards the pirates on the Riff coast.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 144.

Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa to Mr. White.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.)

2 Jumad I, 1315 (October 1, 1897).

YOUR letter has reached me reporting the attack of the Bocayan Riffs on another British falucho near Alhucemas, which was carrying a cargo of petroleum and salt from Gibraltar, and they sallied forth against her, but a wind sprang up and she effected her escape, with her hull and sails damaged by the rifle fire.

We have acquainted our Lord (may Allah fortify him!) with the above, and he has taken cognizance of it; but you do not mention the name of the place to which the falucho was proceeding.

Shereefian orders have been issued to put a stop to the nefarious deeds of these people, and these orders will prevent further harm occurring to vessels passing along the coast on account of the measures taken, before the arrival of your letter, by His Shereefian Majesty (whom God assist!), and these orders will doubtless have been received at their destination, and perhaps you have heard about the issue of these orders, which are a sufficient remedy by the power of Allah.

(Signed) HAMED-BEN-MOUSSA-BEN-HAMED.

No. 145.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 150.)

My Lord, *Tangier, November* 10, 1897.

WITH reference to Mr. White's despatch No. 99 of the 6th August, relative to the assault on Mr. Carleton at Alcazar, I have the honour to transmit translation of a note addressed by the Grand Vizier to this Legation, and also a copy of my reply.

It is difficult to see, in view of the evasive methods of the Moorish Government, what other course can be taken than to endeavour to awaken the Grand Vizier to some sense of the requirements of the case.

It would be undesirable to formulate any specific demand for the dismissal of the Kaïd unless there were some likelihood of it being accepted, as would place the Legation in an invidious position to make a formal request of that nature and meet with a refusal.

I trust soon to have an opportunity of bringing this, and other pending cases, more directly than by written communication to the notice of the Grand Vizier, whose attention is at present absorbed by the affairs in the Chaouia district, where the Sultan's expedition is in course of punishing the tribes.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 145.

Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa to Mr. White.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.) 2 *Jumad I*, 1315 (*October* 1, 1897).

WE have received your reply to the letter we wrote in reply to the friendly Minister, the respected Sir Arthur Nicolson, with reference to the quarrel which occurred between Mr. Carleton and the men of Kaïd Abd-el-Kader-el-Khalkhali, and you state that the report made by the Ameen, who was sent with the two Adools to verify the facts—to the effect that Mr. Carleton's claim was unfounded—was not exact, and that his information was contrary to the facts, as he refused to accept the testimony of Christians and Jews who were witnesses for Mr. Carleton, and you add that there is no difference between the evidence of Moslems and that of others.

I informed our Lord (compliments) of this, and he was aware of it, and he ordered me to reply to you that the injury occasioned without cause to the Ameen and to the two Adools, by the imputation of having altered the evidence, is manifest, and there is no greater injury by all creeds and laws.

This Ameen is only an intermediary, as an agent of the Government, in attending to this matter and verifying it, and the two Adools only received evidence from such persons as the Kadi could certify to, they would not alter nor change it, though the sword were at their necks.

The whole of this was in the presence of your deputy and the Kaïd of the town, and they did nothing which would merit the imputation of turning aside the evidence—which means the showing the contrary of that which is hidden—and they only carried out the orders given to them in the manner by which it was possible for the Kadi to accept the evidence legally (*i.e.*, in conformity with Shraa).

The reason of their refusal to accept evidence other than Moslem is that testimony without the Kadi's attestation is invalid as Shraa, and the Kadi attests to Moslem evidence: this is the only reason.

In a decision given outside Shraa the rule is, if there is any divergence in the evidence of the two sides, the case is settled in accordance with the evidence of the side with the greatest number of witnesses.

The Government, from its solicitude in the matter, sent an Ameen and two Adools, all respectable men from a different district, so that no suspicion of partiality might attach to them, and if there had been anything to prove the allegation of Mr. Carleton, it would have been carried through in accordance therewith, and no portion of any proved right would have been passed over, be it against whom it may.

May you continue, &c. Peace.

(Signed) HAMED-BEN-MOUSSA-BEN-HAMED.

Inclosure 2 in No. 145.

Sir A. Nicolson to Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.) *Tangier, November* 10, 1897.

I HAVE received the letter which your Excellency addressed to Mr. White on the 2nd Jumad I. 1315 (10th October, 1897), in regard to the attack on Mr. Carleton by men of Kaïd Khalkhali, and in the presence of the latter functionary.

I much regret that on my return after four months' absence I still find this case unsettled and no reparation accorded for an attack on a British subject, in which chance alone prevented us from having to deplore most serious consequences to him, if not loss of life.

I had hoped that the Moorish Government would have seized the opportunity to impress on their subjects their disapproval of all acts which endangered the lives of foreigners, and their determination to mete out due punishment for such offences. I readily consented to an inquiry into the case so that no doubt should exist in the minds of all impartial men as to the gravity of the offence, and I cannot conceal from your Excellency the disappointment I experienced when the mode in which the inquiry was being conducted showed but too clearly that there was but little hope of bringing the true facts to light, but, on the contrary, that it was being undertaken in a partial and inconclusive manner.

Your Excellency says Christian and Jewish evidence is not admitted by Shraa. This is possible, and it is not for me to pass an opinion on that point. But there was no question of submitting the case of Mr. Carleton to Shraa. I should not have agreed to do so, as Shraa was clearly not a Tribunal to decide on such a case. Your Excellency's own letter to me of the 21st Shawal, 1314 (25th March, 1897), also shows that this was not your intention, as you state "that Shereefian orders have been issued to send an intelligent and trustworthy Ameen and two notaries from among the best Adool at Rabat to Alcazar for the purpose of verifying the facts of the occurrence, and to collect the testimony of all the inhabitants who have cognizance of the affair, attended by whomever you may agree to appoint on your side from Tangier."

The inquiry was commenced, and instead of "all the inhabitants who had cognizance of the affair" being examined, merely the evidence of one section alone was admitted, and the rest refused. The inquiry was therefore so clearly one-sided, that I at once instructed my deputy to withdraw from it.

I am still unwilling to report to my Government that practically all redress has been refused by the Moorish Government, and that I have found it impossible even to obtain an inquiry guided by the rules of common sense and simple justice. I shall therefore await a further reply from your Excellency.

May you rest in peace, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 146.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 151.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 12, 1897.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 147 of the 7th instant, I have the honour to report that Mr. Cunningham Graham arrived here on the 10th instant in good health, after being detained by Kaïd Guntafy for eleven days. Mr. Graham and his companion were travelling in Moorish dress and without an escort or letter of recommendation, and in these circumstances I have informed him that I am unable to present any claim on his behalf. The Kaïd wrote to the Court for orders as to what he should do in regard to the travellers, and on receipt of a reply he released them and sent them under escort to the limits of his district.

I have told Mr. Graham that I will draw the attention of the Grand Vizier to the fact of the Kaïd having prevented them from returning to Mogador when they made preparations for doing so. More than this I did not feel justified in doing.

I should state that Mr. Graham in no way desired a money claim to be presented on his behalf, but thought, in the interests of future travellers, that a strong representation to the Moorish Government should be made. Had all the usual precautions been taken there might have been some ground for adopting that course, but I trust your Lordship will approve of my limiting my observations to the error committed by the Kaïd in not at once allowing the travellers to return whence they came.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 147.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 152.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 12, 1897.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 109 of the 27th ultimo, transmitting a further letter from Mr. Jochimsen in regard to opening up trade relations with the tribes between Cape Juby and Cape Bojador.

It is difficult to deal with each of the statements put forward by Mr. Jochimsen as, though many of them appear to me improbable, I cannot say of positive knowledge that they are without foundation, I think the commencement of preliminary works in connection with the construction of a French naval port could safely be waited before seriously considering the effect it might have, in possible eventualities, on British commerce.

I have not heard of any project for the construction of a railway in those districts, nor have I received any information as to whither it would lead and whence it would start.

I hardly think that the Moorish Government would be induced to regard a modification of the Agreement of 1895 with more favour because the "prime mover in the business was a foreigner." My short experience of the views of the Moorish Court would lead me to a different conclusion and I am still unable to understand in what manner British commerce is at a disadvantage with foreign trade under the Agreement of 1895. If the Customs officers of the Sultan are present at places where goods are landed, all would pay a 10 per cent. duty; if there are no Customs officers and goods are landed at isolated spots, there would be no one to claim the duty on behalf of the Sultan.

Personally I am mistrustful of any proposals emanating from Sheikhs on that coast; and as Her Majesty's Government has formally recognized the sovereignty of the Sultan over the coast line in question, it seems to me that it would be undesirable that any countenance should be given to any project which has not received His Majesty's consent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 148.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 153.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 12, 1897.

I HAVE received renewed requests from British merchants at Dar-al-Baïda to procure from the Moorish Government the reimbursement of the export duties levied on coriander seed in excess of the duty hitherto paid on that article. These merchants have explained to me that for the 1897 stock they have made their calculations on the basis of a 10 real duty, so that no claims need therefore be made on that account.

It is only for the 1896 stock, much of which still remains unshipped, and which they purchased on the basis of the lesser duty, that they request reimbursement.

I have told the merchants that they should continue to pay the higher duty on the 1896 stock under protest, and at the end of the year send me in a statement of claim. I told them, further, that the Diplomatic Body were continually pressing the Moorish Government to meet our requests but that, hitherto, no success had attended our united representations.

I beg leave to inclose copy of the last note which was addressed to the Grand Vizier by the Spanish Minister in the name of the Diplomatic Body on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 148.

Señor de Ojéda to Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa.

(Après les compliments d'usage.) *Tangier, le* 14 *Octobre*, 1897.

EN l'absence de notre honorable doyen, le Ministre de Belgique, j'ai reçu la lettre que vous lui avez adressée en date du 16 Rabi-el-Awal relativement aux droits perçus autrefois et à percevoir à l'avenir, sur l'exportation du coriandre. J'ai porté votre lettre à la connaissance de mes collègues, lesquels, après en avoir délibéré, me chargent de vous réitérer les arguments que nous avons déjà exposés au sujet de la convenance qu'il y aurait pour le commerce en général et même pour le Makhzen à maintenir l'ancien droit perçu de 5 réaux par quintal dont l'augmentation ne peut que porter un coup funeste aux revenus du Sultan et à la prospérité du pays en tarissant une source de bien-être tel qu'est l'exportation de ce produit.

Néanmoins mes honorables collègues désirent à se borner aujourd'hui à vous rappeler que le Makhzen, en se permettant pendant quinze ans la perception d'un droit de 5 réaux sur le coriandre, qu'il pouvait contrôler, dans la revision annuelle des comptes, s'est rendu responsable de la négligence ou de l'erreur commise par ses Administrateurs des Douanes, et que par suite, dans le cas où cette erreur serait même généralement admise, le Mahkzen devait en souffrir les conséquences et se trouvait dans l'obligation d'en avertir les Représentants et de s'accorder avec eux pour la fixation d'un délai, qui aurait évité au commerce les préjudices que lui a causé la révocation soudaine d'un droit qui avait servi de base aux engagements pris par nos ressortissants dans leurs transactions commerciales.

C'est donc en vertu de ce principe d'équité universellement reconnue, que je suis chargé par mes collègues de protester encore une fois auprès de votre Excellence contre la perception des nouveaux droits sur le coriandre sans délai préalable, et de rendre le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Shérifienne responsable des préjudices que de ce fait ont été et sont encore causés à nos ressortissants.

Paix.

(Signé) E. D. OJÉDA.

No. 149.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 154.)

My Lord, *Tangier, November* 13, 1897.

THE Spanish man-of-war, the "General Valdez" returned here on the afternoon of the 11th instant, bringing the four European captives who have been detained since the month of August last by the Bocoyan pirates. They were delivered to the deputy of the Sultan here, and by him transferred to the Italian and Portuguese Legations, and have since left for their respective countries.

The Portuguese Chargé d'Affaires informs me that his agent was present when the exchange took place, and on more than one occasion it was feared that the proceedings would fall through. Those among the pirates who were expecting ransom were indignant at the prospect of losing their money, and the Portuguese Agent had to deliver to the guardian of the three Portuguese captives 300*l.* in sterling and 2,500 dollars in currency before the release was agreed to.

It was also found necessary to satisfy many others among the Riffians; but he was unaware what sums had been distributed.

When all the captives were embarked and the French Consular Agent alone was left on the shore, a renewed agitation broke out, and the attitude of the Riffians became so threatening that the "General Valdez" did not venture to send one of her own boats to fetch the Consular Agent; but employed a native craft, and eventually she was able to leave.

The Riffians, or many among them, were dissatisfied with the results, and expressed their intention of taking severer measures against foreign ships at the next opportunity.

The above is what the Portuguese Agent related to his Chargé d'Affaires, and which M. d'Oliveira told me was confirmed by the three Portuguese captives.

The "General Valdez" also took on board the two principal Bocoyan Chiefs, whom she brought to Tangier under a safe conduct. In regard to the mission of these two individuals, I propose to address your Lordship in another despatch.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 150.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 155.)

My Lord, *Tangier, November* 13, 1897.

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch, I have the honour to state that the two Bocoyan Chiefs who arrived in the Spanish man-of-war were brought here with a view of discussing with the Spanish Minister a *modus vivendi* for the future. The Alhucemas authorities apparently find strained relations with the Riffians extremely inconvenient, as they are dependent for all supplies, including water, on outside sources. The Spanish Minister, therefore, considered the moment a propitious one for entering into a friendly negotiation as to the future.

The Italian Minister, on hearing that the Riff Chiefs were likely to be landed, informed his Spanish colleague, as well as the Sultan's deputy, that he regarded the Bocoyans as pirates, who had perpetrated piratical acts on an Italian vessel, and the mere fact of their having liberated the captives in no wise wiped out their offence. He would, therefore, should they set foot on shore, demand their immediate arrest.

The Chiefs were, in consequence of this declaration, not permitted to land, and the Spanish Minister had interviews with them on board. I do not know the results of these interviews, though I am told that at the first interview the Chiefs, enraged at being kept on the ship, used insolent and menacing language, threatening the severest treatment of future Christian captives. They have now been taken back to their homes.

The Italian Minister asked me my opinion as to his action, and I told him that I agreed entirely with him. If the Spanish authorities wished to negotiate with the pirates, they had opportunities of doing so at Alhucemas; but it seemed to me strange

to parade the pirate Chiefs at Tangier, where they would probably have received an ovation from numerous compatriots here, and before Legations whose subjects had severely suffered from their misdeeds. Moreover, very large concessions had been made to the pirates, but now that the captives were in security, there was no reason for treating them as a friendly power.

M. de Malmusi told me he believed Cid Mohammed Torres had been induced to address a note to him and the Portuguese Representative, asking that their Governments should pardon the Bocoyans and pass an act of oblivion. I have since heard that Cid Mohammed Torres has abandoned this intention.

I fear that the mode in which the negotiations for the release of the captives was conducted, and the eventual results, have not increased among many natives, both official and other, their respect towards European nations. Ransom negotiations should hardly have been conducted by men-of-war, who did not appear to overawe but to treat, and the feverish activity of several agents, each striving to obtain the favour of the Riffs, has undoubtedly inspired the latter with an inflated idea of their importance. The acceptance of all the terms which were imposed, and subsequent efforts to gain the friendship of those who are but pirates and evildoers, have been watched with close and puzzled interest by the Moors.

Several of my colleagues consider that the result is a great triumph for France, and, as one of them observed to me, that it has led to the establishment of a French Protectorate over the Riff country. It is quite possible that the French authorities informed the Riffs that if the matter were left in their hands, the other Governments would release the Riff prisoners, and it is equally probable that the French authorities have not underrated the success which has attended their promises. I am told also that there has been a distribution of French protection papers among the Bocoyans, though I have been unable to verify this report. Still, admitting all this, the Bocoyans are but one small tribe among the Riffs, and from any outward signs even they have not shown themselves specially well disposed to the French.

The French captive, who unfortunately died, was not released, even though hostages were offered in his place, and if information is correct, the French Consular Agent narrowly escaped rough handling at the moment of the exchange. Moreover, a large party among the Bocoyans are discontented, and not satisfied with the solution of the question.

I imagine the Riffs generally make little distinction among European nations, though they appear to have a special dislike and distrust for the Spaniards.

I doubt if any political advantage has, in reality, been obtained, though the action which, all information agrees in stating, was exerted by the French authorities, would show that the latter are anxious to establish a footing among the Riff tribes, and be regarded by them as powerful and useful friends. This, however, is no new development.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 151.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 156.)

My Lord, *Tangier, November* 15, 1897.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 131 of the 9th October, I have the honour to transmit copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Maclean relative to the rumoured projects of the Globe Venture Syndicate.

Mr. Cunningham Graham brought me a similar report from Mogador; but I imagine both reports emanate from the same source, which is Mr. Ratto, the agent of Major Spilsbury. I have still doubts whether, in the most favourable circumstances, the Company would be able to establish stable and permanent commercial relations with the tribes of Sûs. The Sultan, it is true, is in some difficulties in the Tedla district; but it is to be presumed that he will emerge from these as he has from others by the process of suborning and sowing divisions among the tribes who are at present hampering his movements. It is also true that his authority in the districts where the Company propose to undertake operations is weaker than that of his father. Still, he may, with the success that attended the measures of the late Sultan in 1883,

be able to win over some of the tribes, who are at present said to be ready to welcome the British adventurers, by the same methods which counteracted the enterprise of 1883. The tribes are notoriously treacherous, and it is possible that, after having obtained a supply of arms and ammunition, and such other articles as they may consider useful, their hearts may fail them in prosecuting the larger undertaking of practically establishing their independence under foreign and private auspices.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 151.

Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 119.)
Sir, *Dar-al-Baida, November* 11, 1897.

I HAVE written to the Vice-Consuls at Saffi and Mogador respectively in the sense of your Excellency's despatch No. 92 of the 5th instant.

There is a rumour in Mogador, founded on hints dropped by the individual, a British subject, from whom the Globe Venture Syndicate obtained certain of the alleged concessions granted by Sûs Sheikhs, that an expedition which is fitting out in Belgium is expected to land, on or about the 16th instant, at Asaka or some other port in Southern Morocco.

The source whence this rumour came is not deserving of more credence than is placed on the word of an indiscreet man given to exaggeration.

Assuming, for the moment, that the rumour is founded on fact, which is always possible, I foresee that serious trouble will arise.

The Sultan's Government is not in effective occupation of Southern Morocco. The people of that neighbourhood are not warm adherents of his rule; they are generally friendly to Europeans, and have always been anxious to have a port of their own.

With a nucleus of Europeans possessed of military knowledge, who would supply them with arms and ammunition, the Sûs people would be easily capable of more than holding their own against any force the present Moorish Government could send against them.

On a former occasion, the date of which I cannot remember at this moment, when a small expedition was landed for trading purposes, the leaders were, with very great difficulty, and then only by a ruse, made prisoners. This happened in the reign of Mulai Hassan, and the influence in Sûs of the Moorish Government, which was weak then, is much weaker now.

The Globe Venture Syndicate may make their attempt under a foreign flag belonging to a Government not inclined to care very much for the susceptibilities of the Moorish Government, but I believe the latter could put an end to all their difficulties in this connection were they to declare the ports of Asaka and Agadir open to European trade.

Custom-houses established at these ports would be the best means for putting an end to all such enterprises, and would strengthen the authority of the Government in Southern Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

No. 152.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 122.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 24, 1897.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 149 of the 10th instant, inclosing a translation of the Grand Vizier's reply to the note addressed to him in regard to the attack on the British felucho "Virgen de los Angeles."

Should the information on this subject expected from Malaga prove to be of the description indicated in your despatch, I approve of your limiting your further communication to the Grand Vizier to a simple request for the settlement of the claim arising out of this outrage.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY

No. 153.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 123.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 24, 1897.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 153 of the 12th instant, respecting the claim of the British merchants at Dar-al-Baida for repayment of the excess export duty levied on coriander seed, and I approve your reply to their representation on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 154.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 124.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 24, 1897.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 150 of the 10th instant, inclosing correspondence with the Grand Vizier relative to the attack on Mr. Carleton at Alcazar, and I approve the course which you are pursuing in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 155.

Mr. Jochimsen to Foreign Office.—(Received November 27.)

Sir, 26, *Great St. Helens, E.C., November* 26, 1897.

IN your letter of the 20th August, signed by Mr. F. H. Villiers, you say :—

"It was further agreed that the port of Cape Juby should remain open for buying and selling, and that the customs duties should be the same as at other ports on the coast."

This paragraph I interpreted to mean that British subjects were free to trade with Cape Juby, sending their ships there, paying the customary duties, and receiving in return due clearance for ship and cargo, with the proviso that owners have to provide boats for landing and loading.

The language of your letter seems very clear, and hardly bears another interpretation, yet Messrs. Forwood Brothers and Co., of 3, Crosby Square, have their doubt, and desire to have the direct assurance from the Foreign Office that they may trade with that port, and get their papers legalized by the Customs authorities.

As this is a matter of great urgency I hope you will be able to give them a prompt reply. I have worked hard to shape the business which has been the subject of my letters, so as to comply with the prescriptions of the Foreign Office, and I hope the present negotiation may not have to fall to the ground. The concessionnaire, Mr. Saber, is only waiting here to return in company of a friend, and may, therefore, leave at very short notice. His departure would, of course, upset everything.

From a conversation which Mr. Saber had with the manager of Messrs. Forwood Brothers and Co., it appears to me that the disastrous adventure of the North-west African Company had two sides, one of which has not been told.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. W. H. JOCHIMSEN.

No. 156.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 29.)

(No. 157.)

My Lord, *Tangier, November* 13, 1897.

TWO of the principal British merchants at Dar-al-Baida arrived from that port this week to lay before me the precarious situation of British commercial interests in the districts with which they are accustomed to trade; and a German merchant accompanied them with a similar mission to his Legation.

I requested Messrs. Lamb and Fernan, the gentlemen in question, to embody their grievances in a short Memorandum, and I have the honour to transmit a copy of this document to your Lordship. I am afraid I was able to give the gentlemen but little consolation in the way of holding out hope of an immediate remedy to the difficulties in which they are placed, and which, I fear, are becoming indigenous in this country. The Legation has practically exhausted all the means at its disposal for obtaining redress or the settlement of claims. Notes are addressed to the Grand Vizier, who, after considerable delay, replies either evasively or with promises which are not executed, and renewed representations are subsequently made with the same inconclusive result.

I fear that critical times are in prospect for commercial interests. The peasantry in some of the most fertile districts are being subjected to such extortions from their Governors that in many instances they are incapable of meeting their obligations to their foreign creditors. I will not enlarge on this subject as the general system of government in this country is sufficiently well known to your Lordship. The merchants had hoped that the dislocation of affairs necessarily ensuing on the death of a Sultan in this country would have been shortly righted, but they find to their dismay that the exactions of the Government are hardening into a settled system. The mere fact of the journey to Tangier of two gentlemen of long residence in this country, who represent substantial houses, and who endeavour always to arrange their claims without reference to the Legation, shows the grave uneasiness with which they regard the future.

I have spoken with my German colleague on the subject, and he informs me that the complaints which he has received from German merchants are similar in substance to those which reach me; and he finds similar difficulties in obtaining any satisfaction from the Moorish Government. I confess my inability to offer any suggestion of any practical character; and I could only promise the gentlemen who visited me that I would continue the disheartening and almost hopeless task of endeavouring to induce the Moorish Government to take measures which would permit the re-establishment of a healthier condition of affairs.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 156.

Messrs. Lamb and Fernan to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Tangier, November* 12, 1897.

WITH reference to the conversation we had the honour to have with your Excellency yesterday, we now beg to state as shortly as possible the following to be our general grounds of complaint against the Moorish Government:—

1. The extreme delay in the settlement of all claims, even in cases where the Government has admitted liability, such as the claims which arose before the plundering of the M'zab Kasbah, those occasioned by the plundering itself and the delay in paying moneys where settlements have actually been arrived at.

2. The impossibility of getting country Governors to send in debtors.

3. The unjust way in which the country Governors treat natives in the employ of European merchants; the employé is generally free from personal interference,

but his relatives are persecuted, and, to purchase immunity from molestation, merchants' money frequently finds its way into the pockets of the Governors.

4. The vexatious way in which customs duties are levied, especially with the annual change of administrators.

5. The unfriendly and obstructionist spirit shown by all Moorish officials in matters connected with European trade as instanced by the sudden doubling of the duty on coriander seed, the annoying manner in which the gate taxes are collected, and the persistent way in which Treaty rights are ignored. The Consular trade Returns will show your Excellency how the once important grain trade of Casablanca, Mazagan, and Saffi with the United Kingdom has dwindled into insignificance since the death of the late Moulai Hassan. The country having been continually in a state of anarchy the Arabs, instead of following their usual agricultural pursuits, have been engaged in fighting and plundering each other, large tracts of land have gone out of cultivation, and the already impoverished country is being utterly ruined by the extortion of the Governors.

We take this opportunity of thanking your Excellency for the sympathetic reception you have given to the statement of our many grievances, and we trust that your efforts on our behalf may soon result in redress.

We have, &c.

(Signed) G. H. FERNAN.
C. LAMB.

No. 157.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 29.)

(No. 158.)

My Lord, *Tangier, November* 17, 1897.

THE Moorish steamer, the "Hassanee," arrived here two or three days ago with some 300 soldiers on board, and having heard from Her Majesty's Consul at Dar-al-Baida that she has been dispatched with a view of punishing the Riff pirates, I caused inquiries to be made of Cid Mohammed Torres whether this was a fact. His Excellency replied that the orders were that the vessel was to proceed to the Riff coast, and when arrangements had been made with the neighbouring tribes, the Bocoyans should receive a chastisement.

I asked the Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese Representatives to join with me in conveying to Cid Mohammed Torres our satisfaction that the Sultan at last was about to take the measures which had been so often requested, and which were so urgently required.

The two latter gentlemen willingly agreed to do so, and the Spanish Minister also said he would be pleased to convey a similar message, but that he believed that the vessel was going simply to Melilla to supply a new Governor in the place of the one who had been driven out by the tribes, and also to re-establish order in the districts near the Spanish lines. He had heard nothing as to the punishment of the Riffs, and he believed the Sultan's officers had already promised a full pardon to the Bocoyans if the captives were released.

On my inquiring again of Cid Mohammed Torres as to whether it was true that the Melilla question was to be first solved, he sent me a reply that this was so, and that as the captives had been released, fresh orders would be applied for from the Court as to the course of action to be adopted towards the Riff pirates.

As this message was so different from the former, I saw Cid Mohammed Torres this afternoon, and he then told me, as also my Italian and Portuguese colleagues, that the vessel had gone to Melilla in the first place, that when a sufficient force had been collected, the punishment of the Bocoyans would follow, but that he was unable to state when that event would occur, as the preliminary arrangements would probably take some time. He denied that any promises had been given to the Bocoyans as to a free pardon.

The matter, therefore, rests in that position. The statements of the Sultan's Deputy vary on each occasion, though both the Italian and Portuguese Representatives have received distinct assurances from the Grand Vizier of a very recent date that a vessel will be sent to put an end to the depredations of the Bocoyans.

I believe, also, some troops will be dispatched overland, but a considerable time will probably elapse before any effective operations are undertaken.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 158.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 29.)

(No. 159.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 18, 1897.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod, announcing the appointment of a Spanish Consular Agent at Fez.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 158.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir. *Fez, November* 11, 1897.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that Mr. S. M. Güitta, who has been for some years Jewish doctor at Fez, called upon me to-day, and stated that he had been appointed Spanish Consular Agent here.

Mr. Güitta visited the Acting Governor on the 8th instant, and delivered his letter of credence from the Moorish Commissioner for Foreign Affairs at Tangier, but that visit has not been returned as yet.

There are almost no Spanish subjects or protégés in Fez, nor is there any Spanish trade to speak of. But occasionally bad characters of that nationality sojourn here, and give much trouble and annoyance to the native authorities, and to respectable Europeans as well. So the appointment of an official to control such people ought to prove of public benefit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

No. 159.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 29.)

(No. 160.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 18, 1897.

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch I have received from Mr. Consul Maclean, relative to the continued delay in the settlement of debts owing to British merchants in the Saffi district.

I am taking steps which will, I trust, lead to some partial settlement of these long outstanding claims, as the continued delay is causiag serious prejudice to the interests of British traders.

The suggestion of Mr. Consul Maclean as to the protection to be afforded to some native debtors, may, I think, be worthy of consideration, if progress in this question is not speedily and considerably hastened.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 159.

Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 120.)
Sir, *Dar-al-Baida, November* 16, 1897.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 90 of the 28th ultimo, in which your Excellency kindly transmitted a translation of the reply received from the Vizier on the subject of Saffi claims, I have the honour to report that Mr. Vice-Consul Hunot informs me that the Commissioner Kerdoodi received at the beginning of October the letters mentioned by the Vizier and they were duly delivered.

Since their receipt Mr. Hunot has made persistent and frequent applications to the Commissioner and the Oomana for debtors, but without result, and on the 6th instant the above-mentioned Moorish official stated that none of the Khalifas had paid any attention to the Shereefian orders, and their disobedience was to be reported to the Sultan.

Mr. Hunot further states that the Khalifas are robbing some of the debtors of cattle and property, and preventing them from paying their debts, and are endeavouring to persuade some to make out false documents of insolvency.

The Commissioner informs Mr. Hunot that he has received no instructions with regard to debts owing by Kaid Aisa-ben-Oman, and he refuses te write any letters on the subject of debts to the Kaids in the vicinity of Morocco city, where many debtors reside.

I transmit herewith a copy of Mr. Hunot's despatch.

From the facts as reported therein, it becomes once again evident that the repeated orders alleged to have been sent to the Kaids and Khalifas are hollow shams.

I would venture respectfully to suggest to your Excellency that matters might be improved to a certain extent were some measure of protection given to those native debtors who are willing to pay, but are prevented through fear of their authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

No. 160.

Foreign Office to Mr. J. W. H. Jockimsen.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 1, 1897.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th ultimo, stating that Messrs. Forwood Brothers are desirous to receive a direct assurance from this Department that British subjects may trade with Cape Juby, and have their papers legalized by the Customs authorities at that port.

I am to state that Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier is in communication with the Moorish Government as to the arrangements which must be made before trade can be opened at Port Juby.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 161.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 161.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 26, 1897.

THE French Minister, who has just returned from leave of absence, inquired of me whether it was true that the Globe Venture Syndicate had actually dispatched a trading expedition to the Sûs district, and whether that Company was still determined to prosecute its enterprise.

I told M. de Monbel that I had received no information of any precise nature, and that I doubted if the Syndicate had actually commenced operations. I was in a position

to assure him that if the Company did so, it would be without the countenance and support of Her Majesty's Government; and I related to M. de Monbel the steps which, under instructions from your Lordship, I had lately taken in the matter.

I said, further, that I should be very happy to give him a summary of your Lordship's letter to the Globe Venture Syndicate, which recapitulated the history of the question and defined the attitude of Her Majesty's Government.

It seemed to me as well to be quite explicit with M. de Monbel, as I know the proceedings of the Syndicate are being watched with close interest by the French, and possibly by other Legations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 162.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 3.)

(No. 163.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 27, 1897.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a letter, with its inclosures, which the Spanish Minister has circulated among the Diplomatic Body here, communicating an engagement on the part of the Riff pirates to abstain in future from their misdeeds.

I confined myself to simply acknowledging, with thanks, the communication of these documents, without expressing any opinion.

The steps taken by the Spanish Minister is a somewhat unusual one, and is prompted, I have reason to believe, by a desire to prevent any punishment from being inflicted on the Bocoya tribe by the Sultan.

As the post closes to-day, I have not had time to learn what are the views of my colleagues on the subject, beyond the fact that the French Minister considers that the engagement given by the Bocoya Chiefs is sufficient and ample security for the future.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 162.

Señor de Ojeda to the Diplomatic Body at Tangier.

MM. les Ministres et chers Collègues, *Tangier, ce* 24 *Novembre,* 1897.

LORSQUE le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté me donna des instructions pour traiter de la libération des captifs fait par les Bocoyas, sur la base du pardon qui serait ultérieurement accordé à leurs frères détenus à Alhucemas, il n'a pas seulement entendu faire un acte exclusif d'humanité et de déférence envers les nations auxquelles appartenaient les captifs.

Sensible à un état de choses déplorable que toutes lés nations étaient intéressées à remédier sans porter atteinte à la souveraineté du Sultan; désireux en même temps de donner à l'Europe un gage de sa sollicitude pour les intérêts généraux compromis par l'action des Riffains, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté crut devoir mettre à profit les effets de sa clémence en obtenant de la tribu des Bocoyas l'engagement formel de renoncer désormais aux actes de piraterie qu'ils prétendent avoir été entraînés à exercer en guise d'injustifiables représailles.

C'est donc en vertu de ces instructions que je chargeai le Vice-Consul de France à Tétouan, Si Allal se rendant porteur de ma parole chez les Bocoyas, pour les préliminaires de la remise à l'Espagne des captifs, de faire entendre à leurs détenteurs les conditions auxquelles ils devraient se soumettre, et c'est à la suite de ces pourparlers que fût rédigé et signé par les Notables de la tribu l'engagement dont j'ai l'honneur de vous communiquer ci-joint une traduction.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) E. DE OJEDA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 162.

Engagement made by Bocoya Tribe.

(Translation.)

Louange à Dieu seul! que Dieu répande ses bénédictions sur notre Seigneur Mohammed, sur sa famille, sur ses compagnons, qu'il leur accorde le salut:

LES gens de la tribu de Bocoya se sont réunis ce jourd'hui 14 Djoumada II, 1315, à l'endroit nommé "Izemmourine," parmi lesquels se trouvaient: Sidi Abdallah oold Sidi Brahim el Ouazzani, Si Dadi oold Cheikh Messand Boukeur, le Cheikh Mohammed oold el Hadj Amar, le Cheikh Mohammed bel Arbi et Tafansaoni, le Cheikh Messand ben Abdelkader, le Merabel Ahmed oold el Maalam Mohammed ben Si Abdallah Merzioua, le Cheikh Amar ben Moussa, le Cheikh el Ghali, el Hadj Ali Ellouh, el Hadj Mohammed ben Chaïb, le Cheikh Mohammed ben Allueh, Haddu ben Amar Tafesaoui, &c.

Ils ont, pour témoigner de leur obéissance à leur auguste Maître (que Dieu le rend victorieux!) résolu de mettre en liberté les prisonniers Européens détenus chez eux; ils louent la bonté de l'Emir (fils de l'Émir répété six fois), le Seigneur Muley Abd-el-Aziz, qui a bien voulu accorder la grâce à onze des leurs emprisonnés à Tanger.

Les susnommés s'engagent par un serment solennel à ne plus faire de piraterie; ils prennent en outre l'engagement de rester désormais dans le droit, et de n'agir que pour faire le bien en portant secours à tout navire que serait poussé par les vents vers leur territoire, et de leur secourir dans la limite de leurs moyens.

Leurs consciences les appellent aujourd'hui à effacer tous les actes regrettables commi antérieurement à ce jour sur les navires Européens, et à suivre à l'avenir le droit chemin, en ayant une conduite irréprochable, car ils regrettent amèrement tous les incidents qu'ils ont provoqué ces temps derniers.

Ils adressent leurs sincères remercîments au Gouvernement Espagnol, et en particulier à l'auguste Reine de cette puissante nation, pour sa bienveillante intervention, et pour la grâce accordée à leurs frères détenus à l'Alhucemas depuis le mois de Djoumada I, 1314.

Ils n'oublient pas également dans leurs remercîments la nation Anglaise pour la liberté qu'elle a accordée à deux de leurs compatriotes, détenus sur ses ordres à la prison de Tanger.

En foi de quoi, les lettrés de Bocoya ont apposés leur signature au bas du présen engagement, et à eux s'unissent tous les illettrés de la tribu.

No. 163.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 3.)

(No. 164.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 27, 1897.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 112 of the 3rd instant, relative to a claim of Messrs. Dehn and Heine against a Moorish subject at Rabat, I have the honour to transmit copy of a despatch, with its inclosure, which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Frost on the subject.

In reply to some further inquiries on my part, Mr. Frost informs me that at the request of the agents of the creditors the property of the debtor was embargoed on the 19th ultimo, and a list thereof included in the statement of assests. Mr. Frost adds that an inventory is being taken of the goods in the store of the debtor, and that he has urged the creditors to take steps for ascertaining whether the debtor possessed any assets beyond those mentioned in the schedule delivered byt he Khalifa, and that he has impressed on the latter the necessity of his taking all possible measures to assist them in the matter.

Mr. Frost appears to have done all that he properly could to protect the interests of the creditors.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 163.

Vice-Consul Frost to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 22.)

Sir, *Rabat, November* 15, 1897.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of despatch No. 14, dated the 12th instant, inclosing copies of a correspondence which have been forwarded from the Foreign Office with regard to a claim of Messrs. Dehn and Heine on a Sallee Moor named Hadj Benaissa Lalo, and requesting me to furnish a report on the matter.

A similar request having reached me from Her Majesty's Consul at Dar-al-Baida, I have the honour to inclose herewith copy of my reply to that officer, dated the 6th instant, which will place you in possession of the facts af the case, and to which I have nothing further to add.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN FROST.

Inclosure 2 in No. 163.

Vice-Consul Frost to Consul Maclean.

Sir, *Rabat, November* 6, 1897.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of despatch No. 20 of the 29th ultimo, inclosing copy of a letter addressed to you by Messrs. B. A. Dehn and Heine, of Manchester, on the subject of the indebtedness to them of Hadj Benaissa Lalo and Hadj Tebi Sebehi respectively.

With respect to the case of Lalo and with reference to the assertion of Messrs. Dehn and Hiene's agent that I had refused the demand to have them imprisoned, I have to state that I explained to the creditors' agents, at a meeting called by me at this office on the 15th ultimo, that I could make no such demand until the debtor's affairs had been fully investigated by the competent authority with their co-operation, and if it then ppeared that Lalo was able to pay, I should expect the authority to compel him, and should he refuse, I would immediately report his conduct to you.

It was accordingly agreed that I should request the Khalifa of Sallee (the Governor being absent) to furnish me with a statement of Lalo's affairs, which was sent to me on the 22nd ultimo, showing in detail his debts (about 17,350 dollars) and assets (about 12,700 dollars), which statement I submitted to a further meeting of the agents held at this office on the 25th ultimo.

The case is thus proceeding in regular course, and I must, in justice to the Khalifa, add that he has hitherto shown the greatest readiness to afford myself and the creditors' agents (who have three times waited on him in a body, accompanied by the soldier of this Vice-Consulate) every information desired, and to do all in his power to obtain a full disclosure of all Lalo's assets.

While thus every assistance which I can afford has been given to the agents, I have at the same time impressed upon them the necessity of united action on their part if they wish to obtain a satisfactory result, and Messrs. Dehn and Heine would do well to instruct their agent to direct his special efforts to this end.

With regard to the draft on Hadj Tebi Sebehi, it was paid with interest from the due date on the 25th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JOHN FROST.

No. 164.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 128.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 7, 1897.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 164 of the 27th ultimo respecting a claim of Messrs. Dehn and Heine against Hadj Benaisa Lalo, and I approve the action taken by Mr. Vice-Consul Frost in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 165.

Foreign Office to Messrs. Dehn and Heine.

Gentlemen, *Foreign Office, December* 7, 1897.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to inform you, with reference to the letter from this Office of the 3rd ultimo, that a despatch has been received from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier respecting your claim against Hadj Benaisa Lalo. It appears from this despatch that you had already addressed yourselves to Her Majesty's Consul at Dar-al-Baida on the subject of this case and of another in which Hadj Tebi Sebchi was concerned.

As regards the claim against Hadj Benaisa Lalo, Mr. Vice-Consul Frost has reported that he explained to the creditors' agents at a meeting called by him at his office on the 15th October last, that he could make no demand for the man's imprisonment until the debtor's affairs had been fully investigated by the competent authority with their co-operation; and that if it then appeared that Lalo was able to pay, he would call upon the authority to compel him, and, should he refuse, would immediately report his refusal to Mr. Consul Maclean. It was accordingly agreed between the agents and Mr. Frost that he should request the Khalifa of Sallee, in the absence of the Governor, to furnish a statement of Lalo's affairs. This statement, which was sent in on the 22nd October, showed in detail the debts to amount to about 17,350 dollars, with assets to the extent of about 12,700 dollars; and it was submitted to a further meeting of the agents on the 25th October. The property of the debtor had been previously embargoed and a list thereof was included in the statement of the assets.

Steps have been taken to make an inventory of the goods in the debtor's store, and Mr. Frost has urged the agents to take measures for ascertaining whether the debtor possesses any assets beyond those mentioned in the schedule delivered by the Khalifa.

Mr. Frost bears testimony to the great readiness shown by the Khalifa to afford all the information desired, and to do all in his power to obtain a full disclosure of Lalo's assets.

In concluding his Report, Mr. Frost states that he has impressed upon the agents of the creditors the necessity for united action, and he suggests that you would do well to instruct your agent to direct his special efforts to that end.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 166.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir. A. Nicolson.

(No. 130.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 8, 1897.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 161 of the 26th ultimo, reporting a conversation which you have had with the French Minister with regard to the proceedings of the Globe Venture Syndicate, and I approve the language which you held to M. de Monbel on that occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 167.

Messrs. Dehn and Heine to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

47, Newton Street, Dale Street, Manchester, December 8, 1897.

My Lord Marquess,

WE are in receipt of your esteemed letter of yesterday, and are extremely obliged for the information you kindly give us in the affair Hadj Benaisa Lala. Part of this information we have already received through the kindness of Mr. Consul Allan MacLean, of Dar-al-Baida, and we now take the liberty to point out that Mr. Vice-Consul Frost's report does not fully answer our former request. It is very difficult for a

third party such as the agents of the English creditors, if not altogether impossible, to find out what a debtor's assets are if there are no proper books, and as in this case there is every indication that a portion of the assets had been done away with, and that a brother of the debtor is or was a partner, we demanded that the debtor as well as his brother should be put on oath, and to this request there is no reply till now. We also venture to point out to your Lordship that it is generally surmised in Rabat that the debtor Hadj Benaisa Lala has bought within the last three years, in the name of his brother Hadj Mohamed Lala, cattle, oil, a tannery, a garden and a house, and by putting both brothers on oath there ought to be no difficulty in getting at the true state of affairs.

Our agents have endeavoured, and are still trying, to work together with the other agents interested in this affair.

We have, &c.
(Signed) B. A. DEHN AND HEINE.

No. 168.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 131.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 11, 1897.

I COMMUNICATED to Messrs. Dehn and Heine the substance of your despatch No. 164 of the 27th ultimo, respecting the action taken by Mr. Vice-Consul Frost with regard to their claim against Hadj Benaisa Lalo; and I now transmit a copy of their reply,* in which they reiterate their wish that the debtor should be put on his oath to declare the truth respecting his financial position.

I should wish to receive your observations on the expediency of this proposal, to which I gather from your silence with regard to it that you entertain objections.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 169.

Foreign Office to Messrs. Dehn and Heine.

Gentlemen, *Foreign Office, December* 11, 1897.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant respecting your claim against Hadj Benaisa Lalo, and to inform you that a copy of your communication will be forwarded to Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 170.

Sir F. Plunkett to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 16.)

(No. 247. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Brussels, December* 15, 1897.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith copy of a despatch which I received last night from Mr. Consul-General Perry, reporting the shipment on board the British yacht "Tourmaline" (formerly "Jessie") of a large quantity of rifles and cartridges for India under very suspicious circumstances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

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* No. 167.

Inclosure in No. 170.

Consul-General de Courcy Perry to Sir F. Plunkett.

(No. 48. Confidential.)
Sir, *Antwerp, December* 14, 1897.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that I have, this moment, been informed by Sergeant Bryan of the Criminal Investigation Department, New Scotland Yard, that the British steam-yacht "Tourmaline" (formerly called the "Jessie") of Liverpool, official number 80,460, gross tonnage 150 tons, owner Major Gyhbon-Spilsbury, Militia Division Royal Engineers, who gives his address as No. 37, Abbey Road, St. John's Wood, arrived at this port on or about the 7th instant, and this day shipped 500 cases (20 to the case) of rifles (supposed to be of the Mauser pattern), 500 cases of cartridges (1,000 to the case) weighing about 30 tons, and 30 bales of surgical bandages.

The "Tourmaline" is about to sail next tide for India, touching at the Canary Islands.

I should mention that Major Spilsbury declared to the Belgian custom-house that he was leaving for England, and at the pilot office he stated that he was going to the Canary Islands. The "Tourmaline" is a strongly built boat and has four boats aft, two large and two small. She carries much sail, and is deeply laden, and has not the appearance of a pleasure yacht.

I may add that Major Spilsbury called upon me some days ago, but I was not in the office, and, consequently, did not see him He, however, told Mr. Vice-Consul Lydcotte that he was *en route* for the Canary Islands in order to avoid the English winter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. R. DE COURCY PERRY.

No. 171.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 17.)

(No. 166.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 30, 1897.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 149 of the 10th instant, I have the honour to transmit copies of correspondence which have passed between the Governor of Gibraltar and myself relative to the case of the "Virgen de los Angeles."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 171.

Governor Sir R. Biddulph to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Gibraltar, November* 25, 1897.

I HAVE the honour to transmit a copy of a letter from the solicitor for the owner, master, and crew of the "Virgen de los Angeles," asking whether any decision has been come to in the matter of the claim presented by him on behalf of his clients in respect of an alleged attack by Riff pirates on the 3rd April last.

The claim was forwarded to your Excellency with my letter of the 13th May last, and further statements were sent to the Chargé d'Affaires with my letter on 26th June last, and acknowledged by Mr. White's letter of the 2nd July, in which that gentleman informed me that the matter had been submitted to the Foreign Office and the Morocco Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. BIDDULPH *General.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 171.

Mr. H. P. Parodi to Captain Jackson.

Sir, *Gibraltar, November* 17, 1897.

I AM desired by my clients, the owner, master, and crew of the British felucca "Virgen de los Angeles," to inquire from you whether any news has been received with reference to their claim, and whether the matter is likely to be pending much longer.

I may add that I am ready to furnish any further details which may be necessary.

Awaiting the favour of your kind acknowledgment, I have, &c.

(Signed) HORACE P. PARODI.

Inclosure 3 in No. 171.

Sir A. Nicolson to Governor Sir R. Biddulph.

Sir, *Tangier, November* 29, 1897.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 25th instant relative to the case of the "Virgen de los Angeles," and to inform you, in reply, that the matter is still under consideration.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 172.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 17.)

(No. 167.)

My Lord, *Tangier, December* 3, 1897.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul Maclean, conveying some information as to the movements of the Sultan's expedition in the Chaouia [or Shawia] district.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 172.

Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 127.)

Sir, *Dar-al-Baida, November* 30, 1897.

NEWS has reached me to the effect that the Shereefian forces have attacked the residences of Kaïd Gilali Zeriwil and Kaïd Abdslam, of the tribe Oolad Mahomed, not far from M'zab. Both these Kaïds have been "eaten up."

The former is an officer of long standing, and was invariably loyal to the Government.

A number of heads and prisoners have been taken.

This action of the Moorish Government has come as a surprise to everyone, as the tribe concerned has, throughout the troublesome times, been consistently well-behaved, and strong in their adherence to the Government although weak in numbers.

Fortunately there are no British interests in the hands of the Oolad Mahomed.

On the other hand, constant reports reach me of the seizure of property and cattle in the hands of British Mokhalateen in the district of M'zab.

The Kaïds seem to show more energy in exercising their natural taste for robbery as the Sultan's M'halla approaches.

It is always extremely difficult to test what amount of truth there is in these reports, as I have been informed of robberies which had not actually occurred.

Natives do not expect to be believed, but think, by sending a tale of woe, that they will insure their respective Kaïds being reminded that they are under some sort of foreign protection.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

No. 173.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 17.)

(No. 168.)

My Lord, *Tangier, December* 7, 1897.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 151 of the 12th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith translation of a letter I have received from the Grand Vizier relative to the detention of Mr. Cunninghame-Graham by the Kaïd Kuntafi.

I would, with your Lordship's permission, now allow the matter to drop.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 173.

The Grand Vizier to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.) 17 *Jumad II*, 1315 (*November* 13, 1897).

YOUR letter has reached, O friend, stating that a respectable gentleman of your friendly and great nation was travelling with his interpreter in the neighbourhood of the Wad-en-Nefees, for the purposes of travel, and that when Kaïd-Ci-Taïb-el-Kuntafi discovered them he stopped them from proceeding and prevented them from returning to Mogodor and declined to see them, although he provided them with a tent to stay in and provisions, and that he would not give them any explanation as to the reason for stopping them from continuing their journey, and you request that instructions be sent to this Kaïd to immediately release them before he incurs a responsibility on that account. We brought this to the knowledge of our Lord (compliments) and he is aware of it, and he has instructed me to reply to you, O intelligent one, that this Kaïd is one of the wisest Kaïds of the Empire, the Happy, and it is improbable that he has done anything without reason or anything impetuous, and even under the supposition of the exactness of the news which has reached you of his having prevented them from continuing, it cannot be imagined that it is in the manner you have heard, but must be for reasons of great importance, such as fear of the risks on the road in that region, cut off from proximity to the safe roads and which are only safely passed over by the inhabitants of that part, or some similar reasons which warranted him in his decision, if the acts are inquired into; the more so as you have been informed, O friend, that he attended to all their wants. Besides, he was ill and confined to his bed, so he could not see them. It is sufficient proof that they did wrong by going into the territory of this Kaïd, which cannot be entered by those who are from nearer secure places, unless they are accompanied by soldiers of the Governor of the town from which they set out, and these two went into that which caused fears to be entertained for their safety. In any case Shereefian orders have been sent to this Kaïd to send these two men, if what you have heard is correct, accompanied by sufficient horsemen of his tribe, to convey them to Mogador through the Governor of that town, and he has been ordered to send a statement of the facts of the affair, and when his reply arrives we will inform you of his explanation, O friend. Please God. May you continue, &c.

(Signed) HAMED-BEN-MOUSSA-BEN-HAMED.

No. 174.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 17.)

(No. 169.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December 8, 1897.*

WITH reference to Mr. White's despatch No. 98 of the 2nd August, I have the honour to transmit copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod, stating that the Governors who ill-treated the Jews of Sefroo have been reprimanded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 174.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 49.)
Sir, *Fez, November 29, 1897.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 27 of the 24th July last, I have the honour to report that the Jewish community here have just received a letter from the Grand Vizier to the effect that the Sultan has censured Kaid Omar-al-Jusi of Sefroo, and also the Kaid of Jaza for their flogging of Jews, and that the Jews may count upon enjoying in future the immunities granted by His Majesty's ancestors.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

No. 175.

Sir F. Plunkett to the Marquess of Salisbury —(Received December 17.)

(No. 248. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Brussels, December 16, 1897.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 247, Confidential, of yesterday, I have the honour to report that I have received a further despatch from Mr. Consul-General Perry, stating that he has ascertained that the rifles shipped on board the yacht "Tourmaline" arrived at Antwerp in a barge in transit from Holland, and that the cartridges came in three railway trucks from Austria. The place of origin, however, of the surgical bandages is unknown.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 176.

Sir F. Plunkett to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 20.)

(No. 249. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Brussels, December 19, 1897.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 248, Confidential, of the 16th instant, I have the honour to report that I have since received a private letter from Mr. Consul-General Perry, stating that he had been talking over the sailing qualities of the yacht "Tourmaline" with an experienced ex-captain of the British Mercantile Marine service.

This gentleman considers the "Tourmaline" to be totally unsuited for long voyages, such as that to India round the Cape.

If therefore it be true, as Major Spilsbury states, that he is first going to the Canaries, Mr. Perry thinks it probable that the ship is bound for some place on the Coast of Africa, but, of course, it is possible that the "Tourmaline" will not go at all to the Canaries, and may seek to slip through the Suez Canal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 177.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Barclay.**

(No. 228.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 23, 1897.*

I TRANSMIT herewith copies of despatches, as noted in the margin,† which I have received from Her Majesty's Minister at Brussels, respecting the shipment of arms and ammunition on the steam-yacht "Tourmaline," under the auspices of Major Spilsbury, who has recently acted as Agent in Morocco for the Globe Venture Syndicate.

I request that you will warn the Spanish Government, confidentially, that the "Tourmaline" may probably endeavour to start from the Canary Islands for the Moorish coast, with the object of landing her cargo in some part of Morocco.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 178.

Foreign Office to Vice-Consul Ferguson.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 23, 1897.*

WITH reference to your despatch of the 14th July last respecting the proceedings of Major Spilsbury, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to transmit copies of despatches from Her Majesty's Minister at Brussels,† respecting the shipment at Antwerp of arms and ammunition on the steam-yacht "Tourmaline," by that person.

I am to instruct you to report the arrival and movements of the "Tourmaline," by telegraph.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 179.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 27.)

(No. 170.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December 18, 1897.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 163 of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the Spanish Minister informed me that he had communicated to the Sultan's Deputy here the arrangement which he had made with the Bocoyan tribe as to their desisting in future from piratical acts. Cid Mohammed Torres had replied, M. de Ojeda said, in a note couched in rather curt language, stating that the arrangement which he had received appeared to be in the nature of a Convention, and that he would be glad to be informed of the reasons which had induced a foreign Minister to enter into a compact with a portion of the subjects of the Sultan, especially with those whom His Majesty intended shortly to punish.

M. de Ojeda sent his interpreter to Cid Mohammed Torres to explain that his Excellency had misinterpreted the purport of the arrangement, which implied no encroachment on the authority of the Sultan, but, on the contrary, recorded the submission to His Majesty of the Bocoyan tribe. The interpreter was instructed to request the Deputy of the Sultan to withdraw his note, which had evidently been written under a misapprehension. Cid Mohammed Torres apparently did not concur with the views of M. de Ojeda, and said he could not withdraw his note as he had already sent a copy of it to the Shereefian Court.

M. de Ojeda told me that he had in consequence addressed a written communication to Cid Mohammed Torres recapitulating what had verbally been transmitted to him, and expressing the hope that if the Sultan intended to castigate the Bocoyan tribe, some punishment would also be inflicted on the tribes round Melilla who had been guilty of

* Also to Sir A. Nicolson (No. 134). † Nos. 170, 175, and 176.

acts of lawlessness, and that measures would be taken to settle the long pending question of the delimitation of the neutral zone.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 180.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 27.)

(No. 171.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December 21, 1897.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 131 of the 11th instant, relative to the administration of an oath to the debtor Lalo, I have the honour to state that in somewhat rare cases an oath in a mosque or a saint house is requested of Moorish subjects. Recourse is rarely had to this procedure, and is only taken when there are very strong grounds for suspecting that false statements have been made; and it is unwillingly followed by Moorish subjects, as it is considered to publicly cast a doubt on their veracity and good faith, and consequently to lower them in the eyes of their compatriots.

From the reports received from Mr. Frost it seemed that the Khalifa had taken all possible steps to embargo what assets Lalo possessed, and was making an inventory of what was in his stores. Mr. Frost also had advised the creditors' agents to ascertain whether there were any other assets, and had impressed on the Khalifa the necessity of discovering all the assets of the debtor. The necessity, therefore, of placing Lalo on oath hardly appears to have yet arisen; and I considered it would be well to hold what is considered as an extreme measure in reserve.

As Messrs. Dehn and Heine appear to be anxious that the oath should be administered both to Lalo and his brother, I will communicate with Mr. Frost again on this point; but I venture to think that it will be advisable to leave it to the discretion of Mr. Frost whether to raise it or not, as he is on the spot, and better acquainted than myself with the local exigencies. I think Messrs. Dehn and Heine may rest assured that Mr. Frost will do all that is possible for the interests of the creditors, and may with safety leave the matter in his hands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 181.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 136.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 27, 1897.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 168 of the 7th instant inclosing a translation of a letter from the Grand Vizier respecting the detention of Mr. Cunninghame Graham, and I approve your proposal to allow the matter to drop.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 182.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 28.)

(No. 172.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December 22, 1897.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul Maclean, reporting various acts of murder, pillage, and robbery by the Sultan's troops on British protected persons.

Among these cases there is one which required immediate action, as the women and children of a British protected subject were reported to have been carried off by the Sultan's troops. These individuals are by the Convention of Madrid under British protection.

A relative of the French and British semsars has arrived in Tangier, and as he was present at the proceedings in question, the French Minister and myself decided to ask him to make an affidavit before the Dragomans of our respective Legations. I beg leave to inclose the statement which he made on oath.

The case appears to be a very serious one, but as both Mr. Consul Maclean and the French Acting Consul have sent their employés to make inquiries on the spot, we thought it more advisable to await the results of those inquiries before addressing the Grand Vizier on the subject of the murder and pillage We should then be in possession of all the facts.

It is, however, eminently desirable that the unfortunate women and children should be liberated without delay, and M. de Monbel and myself have therefore addressed a joint note to the Grand Vizier demanding their prompt release. I beg leave to transmit a copy of this note.

I am afraid that I shall receive many other similar cases. I trust your Lordship will approve of my acting in conjunction with my French colleague in this matter.

The victims of the outrage who inhabit the same homestead are all closely related to each other, and conjoint has more effect than isolated action.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 182.

Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 146.)
Sir, *Dar-al-Baida, December 18, 1897.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 101 of the 13th instant, I regret to have to report that, according to my information, all the good results of the visit of the Consulate clerk to M'zab have been nullified by the further action of the Moorish authorities.

Apparently on Thursday last the forces under Mulai-el-Amin made an organized attack on most of the Kabyles in the district. The residence of a Mokhalat of Mr. Fernan was bombarded by artillery; this time the "haima" of Boazza-ben-Sliman was really gutted, so I am told; a Mokhalat of Mr. Lamb, not belonging to M'zab, but who was travelling on business, was killed, and his head forwarded to the Sultan.

There are numerous other complaints, but most of the complainants are not at present in a condition to give a connected narrative.

The residence of Mr. Macleod's semsar, Mohammed-ben-Ali-ben-Rami Arifi, was gutted, and his brother, a French semsar, was killed and beheaded before the eyes of his sons. These latter have made a statement before me, a summary of which I herewith inclose for your Excellency's information.

On this occasion the Shereefian forces seemed to have attacked every one, including those connected with Europeans, indiscriminately,

I learn that, comparatively speaking, only a small portion of the loot reached the Sultan, most of it remaining in the hands of the Kaïds and their followers.

Numerous heads, however, are said to have been sent to the Shereefian tent, and amongst them were those of the above-mentioned French semsar and British Mokhalat respectively.

The reason promulgated for this punishment of M'zab is the pillaging of the Kasbah last year, but this pillaging, as I have reported in previous despatches, was the act of Government officials.

Yesterday a deputation of the principal British merchants presented themselves at this Consulate, but, beyond a lamentation, they had nothing definite to tell me, as the details of their loss, direct and indirect, had not yet been arrived at.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 182.

Summary of Statement of the Nephews of Mr. Macleod's semsar, Mohammed-ben-Ali-ben-Rami Arifi.

Mr. MACLEOD'S semsar and his brother, who was a French semsar, lived in the same inclosure.

On Thursday, the 16th December, a foraging party from Cid Mohamed-el-Marani's force, under Kaïd Hadj Abd-ul-Kader Halfi and Kaïd-ben-Tiby Saraghni, came and surrounded the place. The inhabitants defended themselves, and the two Kaïds in person fired on and killed the French semsar, saying as they fired, "This is a friend of the Christians, so much for your Christian friends," or words to that effect. They then looted the place, taking everything, including women and children.

The informants ran away while looting was still proceeding.

As far as can be ascertained, the following is a list of the goods which were the separate property of Mr. Macleod's semsar :—

56 matmouras of wheat and barley.
175 oxen.
5 donkeys.
6 mules.
40 horses.
8 chargers.
15 camels loaded with oil from Demnat.
2,000 sheep.
2,600 dollars, proceeds of grain sold besides specie in a box.
50 cows.

Tents, clothes, jewellery, guns, and all household furniture.

Inclosure 3 in No. 182.

Statement of Bendawd-ben-Ali-ben-Errani, Mokhalat of Mr. Abensur, of Tangier.

BENDAWD has taken the oath that the following statement is absolutely true:—

On Thursday the 16th December, 1897, I was in my village of Woolad Ali-ben-Rami, in the Kabila of M'zab, in the early morning at daybreak, when we discovered the Sultan's troops coming towards the village from all quarters. The Sultan's troops were under the command of Ben Teebi Serghagny, and Hadj Abd-ul-Kader-el-Halfy Enizaby, and Hamed-ben-Behlul, of M'zab, all Kaïds, and Kaïd Hamed-ben-Hejjij-el-Aarifi Mzabi.

The Kaïds were informed that we were protected subjects, but they replied that they were acting under the Sultan's orders.

My brother was shot by the Khalifa of Kaïd Teebi Serghagny in the head whilst he was lying down. I was present outside the tent (khaima) when my brother was shot. I was preparing the cattle to start ploughing when it occurred. The whole place was looted and everything taken, including :—

3 women of the murdered man.
2 women of Mohamed-ben-Errani.
5 young male children, two sent in chains by Kaïd-ben-Hejjij.
2 young female children.
3 children (one girl and two boys) taken from Bendawd.

The body of the French semsar was stripped of everything and stabbed in many places with bayonets. I buried him myself in the evening. His head was not cut off. The Kaïds were aware that he was a protected man. He took, about one month ago, a letter from Hadj Mahomed Torres to Kaïd Hamed-ben-Arbi Wold Zerhoonj, informing him to be aware of the Woolad Errani, and requesting that the Kaïds M'zab be informed of it; this letter was delivered by Mohamed Errani.

The interpreter of the Brazilian Vice-Consul, named Ishan, was taken to the M'halla, and his semsar and Mokhalats were taken in chains also. The Jew was released on arrival at camp. The Kaïds implicated are part of the forces of El Merani.

I and a son of the murdered man escaped when we saw what was going on, and did not return until the evening. Merani's camp is about three-quarter's of an hour distance from my village.

Many other English agents were eaten up.

No resistance was offered.

Tangier, December 21, 1897.

Inclosure 4 in No. 182.

Joint Note addressed to the Grand Vizier.

Tanger, le 21 *Décembre*, 1897.

LES Soussignés, Ministres de la Grande-Bretagne et de France, ont appris qu'un assassinat et un acte de violence ont été commis le 16 Décembre dernier, dans la tribu de M'zab, au donar des Ouled Ali-ben-Errani, sur les nommés :

Mohammed-ben-Ali Errani Ech-chaoni-el-Mzabi, Si-ben-Daoud, protégés Anglais, et Mohammed (Hammo) ben-Ali, protégé Français.

Les Soussignés réclament d'urgence la mise en liberté immédiate des personnes suivantes :—

3 femmes de Hammo-ben-Ali.
2 femmes de Mohamed, son frère.
5 jeunes garçons.
2 jeunes filles.
1 fille et deux garçons du Mokhalat Si Ben-Daoud.

Les Soussignés demandent que ces femmes et ces enfants soient remis aux Consulats d'Angleterre et de France à Casa-Blanca.

Dès qu'ils auront reçu les renseignements complémentaires qu'ils attendent sur l'événement du 16 Décembre, les Soussignés feront connaître au Sultan la suite que cette affaire comporte.

(Signé) A. NICOLSON.
MONBEL.

No. 183.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 29.)

(No. 59.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December* 28, 1897.

TO the Marquess of Salisbury.

With reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 134 I have received private information from Mogador to-day, reporting that the agent of the Globe Venture Syndicate is expected to arrive at the south coast of Morocco about this date. I have addressed the Moorish Government privately, warning them of the possible landing of arms and ammunition.

No. 184.

Foreign Office to Messrs. Dehn and Heine.

Gentlemen, *Foreign Office, December* 31, 1897.

WITH reference to the letter from this Office of the 11th instant, respecting your claim against Hadj Benaisa Lalo, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to state that a despatch has been received from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier on the subject of your suggestion that the debtor should be put on oath to declare the true amount of his assets.

Sir A. Nicolson reports that, though in somewhat rare cases an oath in a mosque or a saint house is required of Moorish subjects, recourse is seldom had to this procedure, and it is only taken when there are very strong grounds for suspecting that

false statements have been made; and, further, that this course is considered to constitute an imputation on the veracity of the person upon whom it is imposed, and consequently to lower him in the estimation of his compatriots. From the reports received by Sir A. Nicolson from Mr. Vice-Consul Frost, the Khalifa appeared to have adopted all possible measures to place an embargo upon Lalo's assets and to be making an inventory of the contents of his stores. Mr. Frost has also advised the creditors' agents to ascertain whether there were any other assets, and had impressed on the Khalifa the necessity of making a full discovery.

In Sir A. Nicolson's opinion the need of putting Lalo on oath had not yet arisen, and it would be well to hold this extreme measure in reserve. As, however, you appear to be desirous that the oath should be administered both to Lalo and to his brother, he will communicate with Mr. Frost again on this point. He nevertheless considers it advisable to leave the matter to Mr. Frost's discretion, as he is on the spot and better acquainted with the circumstances of the case.

Sir A. Nicolson thinks that you may rest assured that Mr. Frost will do all that is possible in the interest of the creditors, and may be safely trusted to deal with the case to the best advantage.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

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